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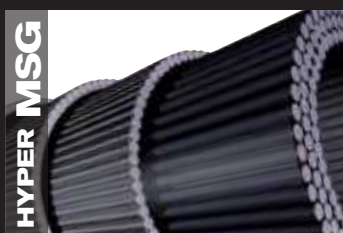
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Congratulations to Andy Bennett who has been crowned 'Daiwa Pole Fishing Masters Champion' for 2015. The three day event hosted at Tunnel Barn Farm Fishery saw Andy hit a match winning 176-3-0 net of F1s and a three day total of 457-4-0. And helping him put some 'air' between him and the competition... his trusty Daiwa Air 160 pole. "On my final day I fished chopped worms across to the far bank into shallow water at full length using my Daiwa Air Pole, bagging 76 big F1s" said Andy.





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WELCOME

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Will Raison and Des Shipp – arguably two of

the very best pole anglers in the world – have very different styles of pole fishing. Likewise, Cam Hughes and James Dent – two of the brightest talents to have come through from the youth team in recent years – are often like chalk and cheese in how they approach a venue. All of the above have their own distinct style of angling that works for them, and they are confident in it, which is why they are so successful.

My two colleagues, Joe Carass and Matt Godfrey, use two terms first coined by Stu Conroy to assess an angler into two different camps. There are 'liggers' and there are 'faffers.' In short, if things aren't going their way in a session, a ligger will feed some bait, put a rig over the top of it and 'lig' some line on the bottom then wait patiently for a bite. A 'faffer' might be more inclined to feed three new lines, try six new rigs of various sizes, before dousing his bait in the latest new additive to hit the market in an attempt to make something happen.

I am reliably informed that the very best anglers



have a percentage of ligger and faffer in their make up. To be fair, once you are familiar with these two terms, most anglers do fit into one category or the other fairly well.

Whatever level you are at, whether you have just picked a pole up for the first time or have been pole fishing for the last 30 years, you will have your own style. It's important to know what this style is and how you like to feed and fish, because you will be able to use this self-knowledge to cherry pick information from anglers who fish like you.

To use myself as an example, I love talking to Lee Kerry, Joe Carass, Rob Perkins and Nick Speed about fishing because, above most other anglers, the way they fish makes sense to me

and I feel like I can learn from it.

I remember some years ago, being told by Jamie Hughes how I should line my float up with a blade of grass on the far bank and use the weight of my pellet to shot my float at Heronbrook. I tried to do this and it ended in disaster because I simply couldn't be as accurate, precise and detailed as he is. Later in the match, I gave up trying to fish like him, put some line on the bottom, started feeding with a catapult and emptied it!

Would Jamie have caught from my peg fishing how he does? Definitely! He is awesome at what he does, and a lot of anglers fish in his style. But as with any coach or angler anywhere, his way isn't the only way and it is a mistake to try and imitate what anybody does if it goes against your style.

I suppose it's a bit like the legendary guitarist, Jimmy Hendrix. He has produced some of the greatest guitar solos in history by playing a right-handed guitar upside down. And why not?

Whatever style of angling you are doing this month enjoy it and do it your way!

Tom

POLE FISHING

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To Catch More with
Lee Edwards

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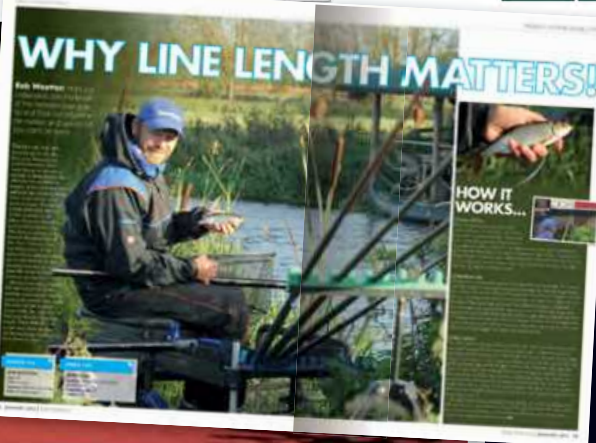


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Feed Less To CATCH MORE!

Lee Edwards gives a lesson in holding winter water bites, explaining the importance of timing and technique.

During the winter months, when the weather is often cold and the water is still, it's important to be patient and use the right technique to catch fish. Lee Edwards, a Welsh international, gives a lesson in holding winter water bites, explaining the importance of timing and technique.



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Feed Less To **CATCH MORE!**

With the elements against him, Welsh international **Lee Edwards** gives a lesson in tackling winter snake lakes, using less than £1 worth of bait.

Despite being one of the most prolific angling venues I know, it's rare that I feed more than a handful of maggots over a five-hour session here at Hill View Fishery, Tewkesbury. That age-old saying "less is more" certainly helps me catch a lot of carp and FIs during the wintertime, and today I'm hoping to show you why my ultra-negative attack will help you catch more on snake lakes over the coming months!

WHAT BAIT?

Maggots are my go-to bait for carp and FIs in winter. Even when there is ice on the water, these fish will eat maggots. In winter bites are what I'm looking for and I like to catch silver fish and other species in between carp. In a match situation they can be invaluable and most commercials are full of them. I believe that silver fish attract carp and FIs too. How often do you start catching a decent run of roach on your light silver-fish gear and then suddenly hook a carp? I have it happen to me an awful lot and it's definitely not a coincidence.

WHEN NOT TO FEED

The key thing to understand about snake or canal-style lakes is that there are nearly always fish in front of you. If they aren't there to begin with, I can guarantee that at some point during a session there will be some fish present.

I like to start ultra-negatively and feed absolutely nothing at all. Often, carp and FIs have small hideouts or short patrol routes in the swim and you can catch them by simply presenting a single hook bait in the places where you think they are. This technique is often known as 'dobbing'.

Using some watercraft skills to establish these areas is vital.

Take today's swim for example. The far bank is around 12 metres away from me, and this is a prime fish-holding area.



The whole bank is lined with reeds but there are two very inviting areas. One is where there's a big cutback into the reeds and another where the reeds have been flattened down into the water. These small features are likely to hold fish.

THE LIGHT RIG

My rig for this initial dobbing is really important. After plumbing up, I've found the depth on the far bank is three feet. However, if there are any fish hanging around here, they're unlikely to be on the bottom. For this reason, I'm setting the rig around eight inches off the bottom, so that once my hook bait settles it's going to be right in front of any fish.

The float I'm using is incredibly light, taking just 0.05g of weight. This equates to five No13 Stotz, which are strung out over the length of the rig. By laying this rig out flat on the water, the hook bait falls through the layers enticingly slowly, so any fish milling around in

Feeding too much in winter can scare FIs away!



ANGLER FILE

LEE EDWARDS

Age: 61

Lives: Cardiff

Sponsors: Angling Bait Club,
Garbolino

Pole: Garbolino Super Legion

VENUE FILE

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HOOK-BAIT TIP!



When dobbing, the colour and variation of your hook bait can make a big difference to what you catch. Keep changing; a single red may be best, while double white is really visible in coloured water. Some days a red and a white will get you a bite from nowhere – varying hook baits is an old trick that definitely catches you extra fish, but many people seem to have forgotten about!

the area will see it falling and hopefully take the bait!

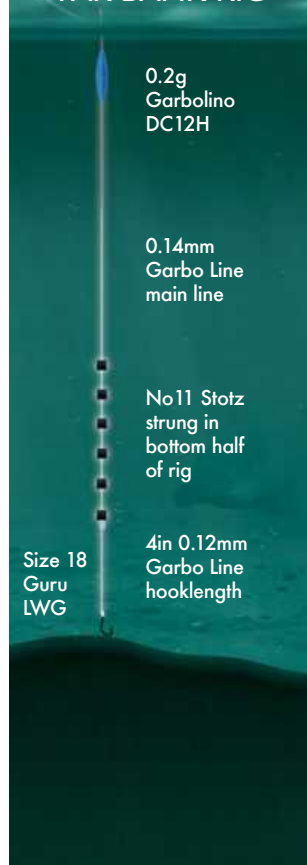
I'm starting the session by doing exactly this and bait up with a single white maggot. Delicately laying the rig out on the water, I watch each tiny Stotz settle, until the bristle cocks to a mere pimple. I never like to leave the hook bait still for long – generally I give it 10 seconds before lifting the float a foot or so and dropping it again – you will find that fish take the bait as it falls. However, as I lift the float this first time, the elastic comes out and I'm into a fish immediately. The feisty critter jumps clean out of the water three times and as I net the fish I realise that it's one of the acrobatic little ghost carp that Hill View is renowned for.

By strategically working my way up the length of the far bank with this simple technique, I've managed six carp in very quick succession. These are simply fish that were hanging around in the area and I've sneakily mugged them by putting my bait right among them without feeding a thing! »»

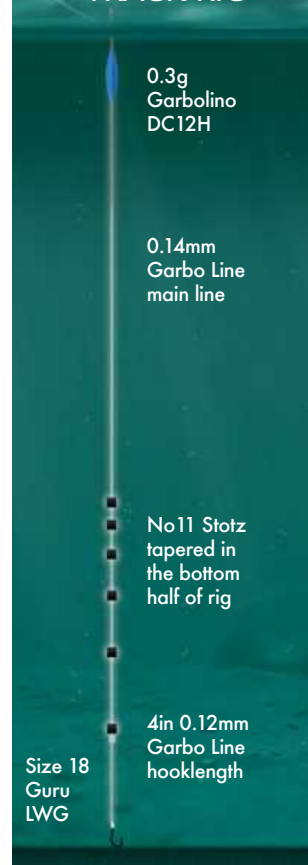
DOBBING RIG



FAR BANK RIG



TRACK RIG



WHEN DO YOU FEED?

On some days you can catch by dobbing all day. However, I generally start the session by doing this before deciding to feed. I decide to do this when bites stop on the dobbing technique. In my opinion, as soon as you stop getting bites, it's time to feed – you've caught all the non-feeding fish and to get any amount of bites you now need to tease fish into feeding by feeding small amounts of bait. The emphasis here, however, is on tiny amounts – just enough to make a fish think “what's that?” and come in to investigate. Introduce too much feed in winter on these kinds of venues and it can have a detrimental effect and fish will simply swim off in fear of the large amounts of feed.

WHERE TO FEED?

I like to pick two or three favourable areas to feed and fish. I actually use my dobbing technique to establish these where possible – it makes sense to feed some bait where you caught the most fish to start with, because they obviously felt comfortable there. Today, the cut-out in the reeds opposite resulted in numerous fish, so that's going to be my first port of call.

I'm also plumbing up another area, in the deeper water out of the way. Particularly later on in a session, you often catch a good run of fish in the deepest part of the swim. Today, I'm fishing this down towards the corner to my left, right in the middle of the canal-style lake.

HOW MUCH TO FEED?

I use a tiny home-made pole-mounted pot to feed with, made from a drinks-bottle cap. At the most it holds just 15 maggots, but I rarely fill it! Generally, I place just six maggots in there. I want to feed for just one fish at a time, and never want to have a big build-up of maggots on the bottom.

I have learnt that the two things that attract inquisitive carp and FIs in winter are the small noise as the maggots hit the water and the sight of a few small grubs falling through the water. Once they're on the bottom they're of very little interest. When a fish does come into the swim, by having as little bait

as possible on the bottom, there's a lot more chance of that fish picking up your hook bait.

LEARN THE FEEDING TECHNIQUE

In the past, I've missed out on a lot of fish by simply potting my maggots in and placing my rig over the top – which I'm sure a lot of anglers do. However, on very calm days I noticed that I was getting very small indications a few seconds after my float had settled. Every now and again I'd strike at one of these and sometimes foul hooked fish off the bottom. What was happening then became obvious. The crafty fish were homing in on the falling feed, intercepting it as it fell, but then leaving the particles once they had been on the bottom for any amount of time. This definitely happens a lot when FIs are the target.

The key to hooking these fish is to make sure your hook bait falls through the water with this feed. Simply pot in the maggots and hold the rig out of the water for a few seconds. My aim is to let the maggots get to around half depth and then lower the rig in so that the shot help my hook bait catch up with the feed. I then slowly lower the rig down with these.

Obviously, the deeper the water, the longer it takes the maggots to fall. Often, you get a bite just seconds after the rig settles and sometimes the fish pull your elastic out as you're lowering the rig down!

THE IMPORTANCE OF MOVING SWIMS

Because you only have a small amount of water in front of you on canal-style lakes, feeding fish spook very easily, especially when you're hooking and playing them in a confined space of the lake. This is why it's very important to have at least two, or maybe even three swims ready to fish. Sometimes, you'll find that you have to move after each fish, while on other days you can catch three or four from a swim before moving.

What is great about this attack is that you never actually feed a swim while you're not fishing it, so all your concentration is put into catching off the swim you're fishing at the time. If I want to move, I simply change to a new swim, pot in some maggots and start

HOW TO FEED ACCURATELY



When potting in small amounts of maggots, it's really easy to spill them out of your pot, even when you have a lid on there! A great little trick is to dip your pot in the water, so there's a tiny amount left in the bottom of it. When you place half a dozen maggots in the bottom of this, they stick in the pot and are far less likely to fall out all over your swim on the way out!



The Garbolino DC12H is Lee's all-round winter commercial float.



Tiny No13 Stotz give an ultra-slow fall on a dobbing rig.



Big FIs love munching on maggots when the weather turns cold!



After keeping a trickle of maggots going in down the middle for several hours, Lee bagged up there in the final part of the session!

fishing again. I don't feel like I need to prime a swim at all. I'm simply giving the fish a few maggots, hoping a few follow them down, and hooking that fish!

If the fish have spooked from one swim, hopefully they will have settled out of the way, where you're about to move to. For this reason, I always make sure my swims are well away from each other. When I move, I want to be moving to a different part of the swim, where I suspect some fish may have settled.

ENJOYING THE ACTION

People often think that shooting features is easy – after all, you're sat on a lake all alone, so surely the fish will hang themselves? I can assure you this isn't the case in winter – in fact it's quite the opposite.

Once I'd caught my early fish by dobbling, bites were incredibly hard to come by. I caught three small stockie carp from the small gap in the reeds immediately, then 30 minutes passed without a bite. The fish definitely spooked up the lake into the free water where there were no anglers – I could see them crashing out to my right. Of course, when there's a match on, there will be anglers there so the fish can't get away as easily!

With the fishing being difficult, I started trying three swims – two across to the far bank at 10 o'clock and two o'clock angles, as well as the line down the track. To begin with, the track swim was a waste of time and I never had a bite on it for the first two hours of the session. The majority of people would have begun feeding too much bait there at that stage, but it's vital to be patient with that swim.

I simply alternated on the two lines against the far bank, catching an odd small stockie carp, with



This little lot was taken on just a handful of maggots!

the occasional bonus common mixed in, by feeding the tiny amounts of bait and concentrating carefully on presenting my rig over the top in the way I've explained.

However, I then noticed an odd tiny bubble appearing over my swim down the track – a sure sign something had disturbed the bottom there. Switching to this swim, I caught a great big F1 immediately – in fact, it pulled out the elastic while I was lowering the rig down, just like I mentioned earlier.

Sticking to this swim I've had bites until the end of the session, mainly from F1s.

Interestingly, I haven't caught a single one of these over my longer swims against the far bank. Had I gone piling in bait on the track swim, however, I'm certain these fish wouldn't have settled.

A dozen or so F1s in the final hour have made for a fantastic end to the day. With approaching 80lb of fish on the bank, hopefully I've shown you a very negative but deadly way of attacking these canal-style lakes at this very difficult time of year! ■



Starting the session by feeding nothing at all often results in several quick quality fish.

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SHORT SUCCESS

Tom Scholey explains how finding features, both above and below the water, is crucial in your search for big perch!

Sat here on the beautiful Radcliffe Viaducts stretch of the River Trent near Nottingham, I have no shortage of options or water to go at. The river is a little over 50 metres wide, with a good amount of flow on the nearside and a very fishy-looking slack going towards the far bank.

I actually drew this peg in a match a couple of months before I shot this feature. I had a great day, catching roach early on maggots on the long pole, then bagging monster perch and eels later fishing a flat float just six metres out into the river!

CUP OF TEA LINE

The effectiveness of fishing short for perch was first shown to me in dramatic style by Rob Perkins, when I shot one of my first-ever features for Pole Fishing about six years ago. We were on the Fosdyke Canal near Lincoln, and in his typical laid-back style, Rob explained how he always fed a line across to the far bank and another on a top kit down the edge! The far line was his banker but Rob said

he used his short line as somewhere to rest his top kit while having a cup of tea. It was amazing how often a big perch interrupted his brew!

Shortly after, I decided to start fishing the Fosdyke and found I caught just as many big perch on this 'throwaway' line as I did on my long-pole swim. It seemed the fish loved the nearside cover!

SIGHT FOR SOAR EYES

With this part of the jigsaw in place, I have

often put a short line in on natural venues with lobworms since and have enjoyed decent successes on the tactics. I remember coming second in a match at Evesham, mainly thanks to a chub that was well over 4lb caught on a lobworm at the back of the nearside lilies, no more than three metres from the bank.

It wasn't until much more recently, though, that I started to more fully understand why, where and when this super-short fishing was at its most effective, and most importantly, when and when not to do it.

It was Leicestershire's River Soar that set me thinking about why these bigger, predatory fish might actually congregate on this shorter line throughout the day. Fishing a short flat-float line with worms has long been a key line for my Matrix Dynamite Trentmen team on the river, accounting for dozens of section wins for us over the years.

It was a practice session for the Sensas Challenge that opened my eyes as to why this short-pole swim might be so effective. I was putting a few small roach together



ANGLER FILE

TOM SCHOLEY

Age: 29
Lives: Daventry
Sponsor: None
Pole: Daiwa Connoisseur G50

VENUE FILE

RIVER TRENT Radcliffe Viaducts Stretch

Location: National Watersports Centre, Adbolton Lane, Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham NG12 2LU

Controlling club: Nottingham Federation Of Anglers

Contact: Paul Warwick on 01158 089232

Website: www.nottsfed.com



Few things make Tom smile like a big stripey!

when, towards the end of the session, I noticed a swirl at my net. I looked down to see a big angry perch, well over 3lb, staring back at me. I picked my lobworm rig up, dropped it in front of its nose, and it wolfed it straight down. A very welcome bonus!

Soon after I looked down to see a 5lb pike in the same place. Needless to say, although he took my lobby, he managed to bite me off before I got him to the net.

Several other people had similar experiences that weekend, which led me to form a theory. I'm quite sure that as you fish and ship silver fish back, or even as you bring your hook bait back through the water, these predatory fish follow it and maybe use any cover that you have around your net, or even your net itself, as a lair where they sit – probably plotting a potential ambush.

Add to this the territorial nature of many perch – they are well known, for example, for sitting over a bed of bait to guard it – and the fact that you are in effect leading them into your traps, where they will then sit waiting willingly to be caught, it further

increases the effectiveness of the tactic.

WHAT COVER?

There are of course times when you have no suitable features or cover on the short pole or in the edge. In this instance you can forget all of the above, but normally there is something somewhere that will hold you some fish; even if it is just your keepnet! The only real prerequisite is depth – I think you need at least three feet of water against whatever nearside feature you choose to fish against. Fish will come into shallower water than this but in my experience they are more likely to dash in and dash out than settle and guard a pile of bait when this is the case.

The perfect cover is something like an overhanging tree, where considerable depth can often be found, but the cover of the feature breaks the skyline.

Sometimes it can be just as important to

consider what is on the bottom than above it, too. You know those horrible, bumpy, rocky bottoms that you wouldn't dream of feeding any bait on when fishing for bream or roach? Perch love them!

I'm not sure why, but banks of rocks in particular seem to hold perch really well. Nevertheless, you have to bear in mind the unevenness of the bottom, and how it might affect your presentation.

Today, for example, the plummet tells me that I am fishing on a very rocky surface. The way to get round this, which goes hand in hand with perch fishing anyway, is to fish plenty of line on the bottom. This allows your hook bait to waft over the rocks rather than settling in between them. It also means that a fish can take your bait confidently, without feeling any resistance.

Lifting and dropping your rig can be devastating when perch fishing anyway >>>

because it often prompts fish sat watching or guarding your bait to snatch at it. An added plus of doing it when fishing among rocks is that even if your hook bait does drop in between two stones where a fish can't get to it, it isn't there long before it is lifted out and brought back into play.

LESS IS MORE

It pains me to say this, because you won't find many anglers more positive than me, but less is definitely more when it comes to feeding for perch. My general rule come rain or shine is to feed a handful (around 70ml) of chopped worms to start with, with no casters in. This is pretty much the most attractive foodstuff for fish like perch because it holds them in your swim without filling them up.

The reason I always advise erring on the side of caution is that you can never be sure how many fish are in front of you – so you need to look to catch what is there.

Because I'm not feeding a lot I want to know exactly where my bait is on the bottom, so a baitdropper is used if the water has any sort of flow on it. I will generally wait around five minutes after feeding before dropping on the line, to give any fish that might be present a chance to settle.

TIMING IS KEY

It might well be that on your first look on this lobworm line you catch a 2lb perch, then a procession of other fish, then your day is easy. You simply top up when you bites stop, but this isn't always the case.

I have had several instances when I have looked on a line intermittently for three hours and not had a bite, then looked on it in the fourth hour and caught a run of fish! I never wait more than two minutes on a lobworm line. If I don't get a bite I change swims, provided I am catching elsewhere.

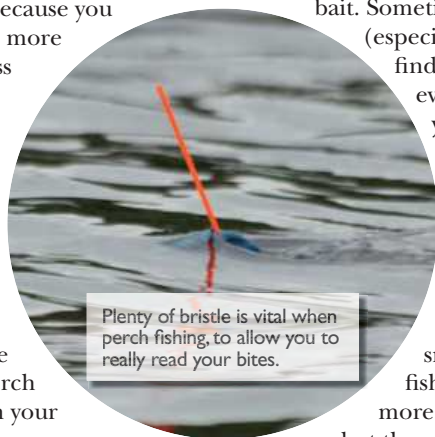
Don't think that just because you don't have a bite that the fish have eaten all your bait. Sometimes it just takes the fish (especially big ones) a while to find it. In my experience, even if the fish do find your bait and eat it all, they will still stay sat there guarding the area, so you will catch one!

GOING LIGHT?

Fishing light lines and small hooks when perch fishing definitely gets you more bites on some days but there is also a massive risk attached to it. There is every chance that you could catch a monster perch, bream, tench, chub, eel or even a carp on a lobby line, so you don't want to risk losing a match-winning fish should you hook one.

I have a very simple code when it comes to this. Always drop in with a heavy (0.16mm hooklength or heavier) rig first. If you catch all day, then great. If you catch a couple of fish then bites dry up, always wait 10 minutes on this heavier rig to see if something big has turned up – then try a lighter rig. I would happily go down to 0.09mm if I thought it would make a difference.

This is perhaps the most important tip. If you go in and don't get a bite, don't even think about scaling down. The chances are there are very few fish there, and if you do



Plenty of bristle is vital when perch fishing, to allow you to really read your bites.

In a match situation, big perch like this are invaluable.



Always keep your pole high when you hook a big fish to keep it away from any underwater snags.

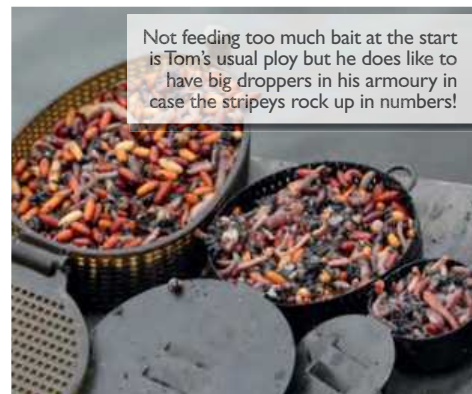




Tom's favoured big perch tackle.



The harder the fishing, the finer you should chop your worms!



Not feeding too much bait at the start is Tom's usual play but he does like to have big droppers in his armoury in case the stripeys rock up in numbers!



I wait no more than a minute before I get a couple of sharp knocks on the float, then it shoots under. I'm soon playing a good fish that runs out hard into the current.

get a bite you want to make sure that you land what you hook!

TACKLE TALK

Flat floats, bodied floats, light floats, heavy floats, bomb on the pole, and even dibbers – I have just about seen it all when it comes to perch fishing and there is a real variance of opinion among even the best anglers in the country about what is right or wrong in different scenarios.

My conclusion is that it is all about confidence, and one thing I do know about perch is that if you give them enough rope they will hang themselves. By this I mean that if you fish a float that you know is heavy enough to get your bait to the bottom, put a float length or more

line overdepth, and wait for the float to disappear then say 'god save the queen' before you strike, you will generally find the fish has taken the bait and you hook it in the mouth.

THE SESSION

A 6g flat float has been my choice because there has been a reasonable flow and approximately six feet of water. After introducing my handful of bait, I leave the swim to settle for around five minutes, before shipping out with half a lobworm on the hook.

I always like to drop my rig in well below where I am fishing and then drag my hook bait back up and over the feed. I wait no more than a minute before I get a couple of sharp knocks on the float, then it shoots under. I'm soon playing a good fish that runs out hard into the current. It turns out to be a perch of about 11lb. Not a bad starter for 10!

I pick up several more from this initial feed, before bites dry – time to top up!

Once I am confident that there are a few feeding fish in front of me, I am happy to feed casters in with my chopped worm. These are a great holding bait and two or three can make a mean change of hook bait too.

I suffer a few quiet spells but, by and large, I catch a fish every put-in throughout my 2½-hour afternoon session, and a healthy double-figure bag is soon being pulled up the bank for the camera. Interestingly, my biggest fish, a perch touching 21lb, was caught on my very last put-in of the day, when the light levels were at their lowest, which again suggests that there was a massive head of fish present and they are only getting more confident as night approaches.

Find the cover, feed negatively and fish confidently, and you too could bank a bumper bag of perch like this! ■



Not bad in just a couple of hours on the bank!



Venue DETECTIVE

The Goldfish Bowl!

A trip to Lincolnshire's Grange Park Fisheries is a real treat for **Andy May**. How many different colours of fish can he catch?

THE VENUE GRANGE PARK FISHERIES

Grange Park Fisheries is situated in the small village of Messingham, just outside Scunthorpe in North Lincolnshire. If you're after some fish-catching action this winter, this is one place that will guarantee it!

There are four lakes on site with a total of 105 pegs, all protected from the elements by high banks and trees. Venue owner Paul Burton is a keen angler and told Pole Fishing: "I've aimed to create a fishery where anglers catch a wide variety of species, and plenty of them. I love to see anglers getting bites and, as you'll see, you certainly get plenty here!"

All the lakes have a very similar stocking and you can expect to catch fish of all colours and sizes. The venue is renowned for the pretty crucian carp, that are often caught on just a top two right beside the reeds. There is also a thriving head of brown goldfish, fantails and some hybrids of these species, which are orange, white, brown and who knows what other colours!

Anglers regularly target the FIs and carp present. Hard-fighting commons and mirrors run close to double figures and particularly like to hang around in the corner swims.

Ide run to over 3lb, and there's a big head of silver bream, skimmers, roach and rudd. If you're after an action-packed day for a mixed bag of these fish, you won't need to venture more than four or five metres out, and a pint of maggots will keep you catching all day.

On site at Grange Park is the stunning A Bite To Eat café, serving all-day breakfasts and hot and cold food and drinks daily. The setup is superb for club match draws and presentations, holding up to 95 people, and after the breakfast we had on arrival we can certainly vouch for the quality of the grub!

LOCATION

GRANGE PARK FISHERIES

Location: Butterwick Road, Messingham DN17 3PN

Day tickets: £5; concessions £4

Contact: 07970 671943



Andy used to have hair this colour – a very long time ago!

MEET THE EXPERT

Andy May is a hugely respected, all-round match angler, a silver medallist for England at youth level and three-time Matchman Of The Year! He is now arguably the top angling coach in the country and can be booked online at www.fishingcoaching.co.uk.

- Three-time Kamasan Matchman Of The Year
- Youngest ever Matchman Of The Year
- World youth individual silver medallist
- Sky TV's venue expert for the Fish 'O' Mania final
- Full-time angling coach
- All-round nice guy!



ANDY MAY

Age: 36

Lives: Middlewich

Sponsors: MAP, Bait-Tech

Pole: MAP TKS 901

Despite the cold, Andy had to feed plenty of bait very regularly to keep catching.



Andy was impressed with the Grange Park hook pellets.

It seems the weather can't make up its mind this year – we seem to be getting summer weather in winter – although for this month's feature it was very cold. Despite this, I could see fish milling around just under the surface! It was certainly a bit different to the mid-20°C temperatures I was experiencing just the previous day while on the beach in Portugal, all snarled up in sandcastles and suncream!

I had a 'mare of a morning because my van decided not to start after being left alone for two weeks, so I had to use the family car, which I was under very strict instructions from my wife to not get dirty or smelling of fish... hmm! After four and a half hours of what should have been around a two-hour drive I eventually arrived at the brilliant Grange Park Fisheries in Scunthorpe, where I was met by Paul and Steve. Straightaway I must say what fantastic service I was offered in regard to a breakfast, but again I declined and just had a cup of tea – will power and all that while the diet is on!

Paul then began to tell me about the lake I would be fishing on and what fish to expect. Now I know I get giddy every



The fish are almost all in pristine condition.

single time I go fishing (every day), but as soon as Paul mentioned the hordes of ornamentals in the lake I couldn't wait and rushed to get the gear (carefully, wife!) out of the car.

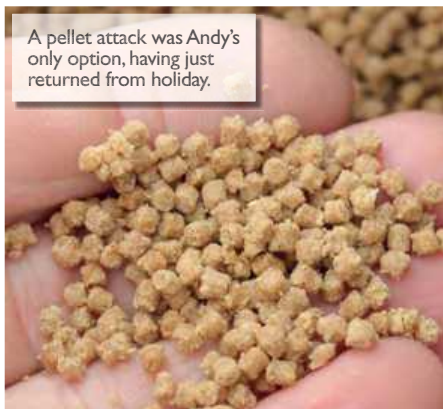
I chose to fish on Peg 7 on Curlew, right in the middle of the lake. Already there were signs of fish and strawberry blonde ones at that – woohoo! There were two other pleasure anglers on the lake, both of whom were catching – one of them was catching on floating dog biscuits... in November! So, a bag of Chum mixers and that's me sorted for today... oosh! >>>



A tight bulk of shot two feet from the hook helps stabilise Andy's winter pellet rigs.



A pellet attack was Andy's only option, having just returned from holiday.



Andy's three favourite floats for cool-water pellet success.

Andy loves catching goldfish because it brings back happy childhood memories.



PETFOOD ATTACK!

I had with me a tin of Pedigree Chum, some Winalot biscuits, a Dentastix and a squeaky toy. Ha, ha, having literally just got back from holiday 10 hours previous

that I ever complicate fishing, but I got just two top kits out. One to fish on the bottom at five metres, and the other to fish over the top shallow – yes, you heard, shallow! I couldn't believe I was even

Oddly enough, though, I seemed to catch a better stamp of fish at this depth and a lot more FIs and brown goldfish, even though I could see the goldfish – it was mad!

(have I mentioned I've recently been to Portugal?) I didn't have time to get any bait so I had with me, err nothing!

It's fishery own pellets here so I decided on a bag of 2mm micro pellets, a bag of 4mm pellets and a tub of 4mm hooker pellets, which incidentally were lovely and not like those rubbish ones that float or break up in your hands as you touch them.

Paul advised that the fish loved pellets, especially the African Sunset variety!

SIMPLE RIGS PLEASE!

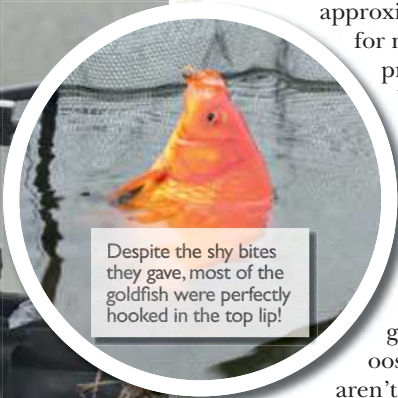
I wanted to keep things real simple; not

setting up a shallow rig, but there were a lot of fish showing.

For the bottom rig I used a 4x12 MAP SD2 float on 0.13mm main line and a 6in 0.11mm hooklength. Shotted-wise, I had a single No10 dropper just above my hooklength, and then a bulk of No10s four inches above this. I used a size 18 F1 B911 hook and elastic was MAP Twin Core yellow hollow. I had about four feet of water and already fish were bumping the rig!

For my shallow rig I used a 4x8 MAP SF3 float shotted with three No11s and used 0.13mm to 0.11mm line. My





hooklength on this was four inches, and I set the rig at 12 inches deep to begin. I used an eyed size 18 B911 hook and had a tiny band on a hair rig so that I could use banded pellet. Elastic choice was MAP double No5.

THE SESSION

At the start I cupped in a grape-sized ball of micros, then began to loose feed a few hard 4mm pellets over the top. It was on with a 4mm soft pellet and I waited approximately five seconds for my first bite! Ha ha, it's probably the quickest bite I've ever had, and the culprit was a small F1. Next drop-in and after a few missed bites (liners, of course) I only went and snared an ornamental, a lovely looking bright orange goldfish around 8oz... oosh! Now, I know these aren't everyone's cup of tea but if I went back to my childhood

and caught one of these fish I'd be smiling for days; the only time I ever saw a goldfish back then was when it was in a plastic bag on its way from the pet shop into my tank. I think it's great that these fish are thriving here and I'm certainly going to bring my little lad to have a go.

To say there were a few fish in the swim was a slight understatement. After 30 minutes and probably 20 fish in the keepnet, consisting of goldfish, crucians, F1s, a skimmer and a small carp, my rig just would not settle and all I could see were orange flashes just under the surface as the fish were coming right up for the 4mm pellets I'd been loose feeding. It's incredible to think that we are nearly into proper winter and here I have fish swirling for my bait.

First slap over with the shallow rig and a goldfish was on; these fish don't really fight so to save time I was shipping back the

LOOSE OR BALLS?



pole without breaking down. I always do this when I'm catching ide and skimmers, because these fish just tend to give up. By not breaking down you are saving yourself a few seconds each time; now that might not sound like a lot but those few seconds it takes you to unship and ship your pole added together over a five or six-hour match or session could mean a few more fish, especially when you are targeting large numbers of them. Anything that can save you time and put more fish in your net is a bonus!

HIT MORE BITES

Even fishing just 12 inches deep I was getting liners and missing fish, so I decided to shallow right up to six inches and I could virtually see the fish taking the bait. Oddly enough, though, I seemed to catch a better stamp of fish at this depth and a lot more F1s and brown goldfish, even though I could see the goldfish – it was mad! As I slapped the rig I made sure I kept a tight line so that either the fish hooked themselves or it was simply a quick flick to the side to set the hook.

One thing that was very noticeable, and it's something I always adhere to, is to change the bait after every fish. Even though the bait might look perfect, and >>>



One of Grange Park's spookier residents - a ghost goldfish!



It really is unbelievable fishing given the conditions, and I wish I lived a little closer to this place.

in fact sometimes the bait is in the water literally seconds before a fish takes it, you won't catch as quick on the same bait, but if you put a fresh one on every time you will catch more fish! They were really having a go and I tried to speed things up every now and again by keeping the same pellet on, but it took longer to get a bite nearly every time. Whether it was because the bait had an element of the previous fish's scent or the fact that the longer you have the pellet in the water the more water it will take on and fall faster or break up was the issue, I'm not sure. But I guarantee that if you change your bait every time you will notice a difference. I think a varnished pellet would have worked wonders, though, because they don't take on any water!

It really was unbelievable fishing given the conditions, and I wish I lived a little closer to this place. I didn't want to stop fishing and I think I had about 20 "just one last fish!"

I fished for around three hours and had getting on for 60lb of brown, white, orange, red, blue, yellow, pink with purple spots, and black goldfish, a few FIs, some crucians, a lonely skimmer and some little carp.

It really was a very enjoyable session and I'm definitely going back because I saw a great big grass carp lurking among the lily pads – that would have been fun on the gear I had on! It was probably the most colourful net of fish you will ever see, and I can't wait to come back. ■

With a colourful catch like this, Grange Park Fisheries gets a big thumbs up from Andy!

A man wearing a blue hoodie and a black cap with 'MAP' on it is lying on the grass, giving a thumbs up. He is smiling and looking at the camera. In front of him are two large fishing nets filled with a variety of colorful fish, including red, orange, and yellow ones. The background shows a body of water and some trees.



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With such a star line-up, a good draw was always going to be required for a pair to do well!



Will Raison did well from Molands Lake at Packington Somers.



**POLE
FISHING**



Pairs Championship

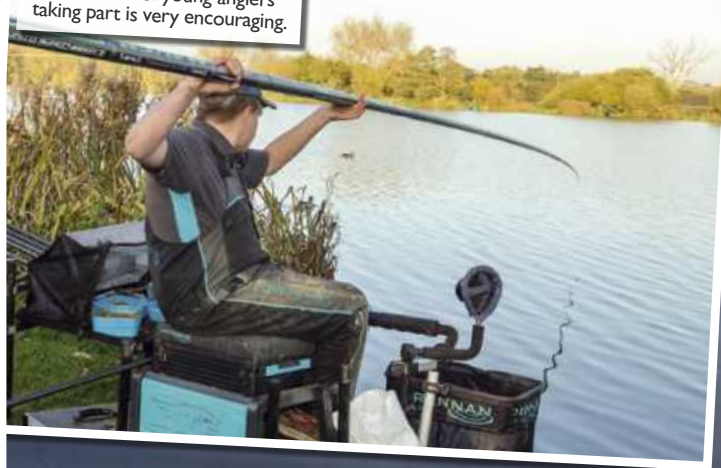
Shipp Smashes Barston!

Mild weather led to fantastic fishing for most on the first round of the **Preston Innovations Pole Fishing Pairs League**. This is how the star-studded line-up got on.



**IMAGE
GALLERY**

The number of young anglers taking part is very encouraging.



Runner-up on the day, Sam Wildsmith pans a good FI.



Callum Dicks was unlucky to miss out on the main frame.



Not many winter league competitions can boast every single member of the current Drennan Team England float team as competitors. The 2015/2016 Preston Innovations Pole Fishing Pairs Championship can, though – with Alan Scotthorne, Sean Ashby, Will Raison, Steve Hemingray, Des Shipp, Callum Dicks and Matt Godfrey all fishing with their respective partners!

Also encouraging is the number of young anglers taking part – with 25 under the age of 30 fishing alongside the more seasoned hands.

Given such a class field, competition is always going to be tight, with every ounce and every point sure to matter come the final round, when the overall result is to be confirmed.

Des Shipp and his partner Adam Wakelin got off to the perfect start on the first round at Barston Lakes and Packington Somers, recording a perfect two-point score and also winning the day overall as a pair.

The competition takes place over five rounds, at commercial fisheries up and down the country. Strict rules dictate that each round is pole only – and carp don't count, but FIs do.

Adam won his section at Packington Somers with a fantastic 44-3-0 net of FIs caught on maggots shallow. Des went one better, though – not only >>>

The Prize Money

After five rounds, the top five pairs will be paid out as follows:

- 1 £2,000
- 2 £1,000
- 3 £700
- 4 £500
- 5 £360

ANGLER	SURNAME	Rd1 Pts	Rd1 WEIGHT	TOTAL Pts	TOTAL WEIGHT
ADAM	WAKELIN	1	44-3-0	2	123-5-0
DES	SHIPP	1	79-2-0		
EDDIE	BRIDON	1	51-13-0	2	74-5-0
GLENN	LAWRENCE	1	22-8-0		
CAM	HUGHES	1	30-3-0	2	69-13-0
SEAN	ASHBY	1	39-10-0		
CALLUM	DICKS	1	67-0-0	3	84-8-0
WILL	RAISON	2	17-8-0		
LEE	WRIGHT	3	47-9-0	4	108-5-0
GRANT	ALBUTT	1	60-12-0		
MATT	GODFREY	1	55-14-0	4	82-8-0
TOM	SCHOLEY	3	26-10-0		
MATT	PARKIN	2	21-2-0	4	79-14-0
ADRIAN	HIGGINGBOTTOM	2	58-12-0		
DANIEL	VARNEY	2	59-7-0	5	99-7-0
BRAD	TITMUS	3	40-0-0		
JOHN	HARVEY	4	40-14-0	5	94-1-0
ANDY	POWER	1	53-3-0		
JAMES	DENT	1	46-10-0	5	78-0-0
ANDREW	GELDART	4	31-6-0		
ROB	PERKINS	2	57-10-0	5	68-13-0
TOM	POTTER	3	11-3-0		
GAVIN	LEVERIDGE	4	25-12-0	5	38-6-0
BEN	ROBERTS	1	12-10-0		
SAM	WILDSMITH	1	76-12-0	6	106-6-0
SIMON	FIELDS	5	29-10-0		
ROB	WRIGHT	5	27-4-0	6	98-0-0
JOSH	NEWTON	1	70-12-0		
MICHAEL	BUCHWALDER	3	42-1-0	6	94-9-0
IAN	DIDCOT	3	52-8-0		
RICHARD	BONSON	2	60-3-0	6	76-0-0
MICHAEL	ELLIOT	4	15-13-0		
TOM	BOYCE	4	33-7-0	6	74-7-0
DAN	JONES	2	41-0-0		
SAMUEL	CLAYDON	3	32-4-0	6	69-15-0
JOSHUA	SMITH-TROW	3	37-11-0		
SARAH	TAYLOR	3	16-9-0	6	55-12-0
KRISTIAN	JONES	3	39-3-0		

Continued...



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Sat 10th Sept Midland Angler of the Year

Sat 8th Oct Last Chance Qualifier

Sat 12th Nov Final - £2,016 winner

Sat 10th December Christmas Match

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winning his section but also the match overall with a fantastic 79-2-0 of skimmers and F1s!

He told Pole Fishing: "I've had a lovely day's fishing. The plan was to fish chopped worm, caster and groundbait on the long pole, and it worked a treat! I've caught over 100 skimmers, two proper bream and two F1s for my weight, and had a fish pretty much every put-in!"

The pair beat two other pairs who also recorded a perfect two-point score on weight countback. These were Eddie Bridon and Glenn

Lawrence, who finished with 74-5-0, and Cam Hughes and Sean Ashby who recorded 69-13-0.

Second place individually fell to Drennan Barnsley's Sam Wildsmith, who recorded a massive 76-12-0 on bloodworm tactics, including an F1 which was weighed separately at 6-4-0!

In third place was Browning Quaker ace Josh Newton, with 70-12-0. Josh, who was fishing in the place of Frankie Gianoncelli for this round, was also the best weight at Packington Somers.

For the next round, the competition moves to the lovely Makins Fishery near Leicester, which presents a very different challenge! Check back next month to see how the pairs have fared! ■



ANGLER	SURNAME	Rd 1 PTS	Rd 1 WEIGHT	TOTAL PTS	TOTAL WEIGHT
LEE	HARRISON	2	43-9-0	7	73-13-0
DAVE	BROOKS	5	30-4-0		
SCOTT	GEENS	2	47-9-0	7	73-11-0
DANNY	ASHINGTON	5	26-2-0		
SIMON	WILLSMORE	3	40-15-0	7	70-3-0
DARREN	DAVIES	4	29-4-0		
MARK	TAYLOR	2	41-6-0	7	57-15-0
SIMON	MOTTRAM	5	16-9-0		
ALAN	SCOTTHORNE	4	33-10-0	7	51-1-0
OLIVER	SCOTTHORNE	3	17-7-0		
JOHN	FREEBORN	5	13-9-0	7	50-9-0
BRIAN	HAWKES	2	37-0-0		
CARL	WILLIAMS	6	24-0-0	8	67-1
SHAUN	STOCKLEY	2	43-14-0		
THOMAS	MORETTI	4	35-3-0	8	60-4-0
FINLAY	BULBECK	4	25-1-0		
DARRAN	BICKERTON	5	27-1-0	8	44-8-0
STEVE	HEMINGRAY	3	17-7-0		
RHYS	EGAN	5	2-8-0	8	43-1-0
PAUL	COOPE	3	40-9-0		
VINCE	CALLAGHAN	4	26-4-0	8	31-11-0
LEE	BENNETT	4	5-7-0		
ADAM	DOWD	2	11-6-0	8	29-15
KAYLEIGH	SMITH	6	18-9-0		
LEWIS	BURROWS	6	10-0-0	8	19-4-0
YESTYN	SEPHTON	2	19-4-0		
PAUL	CANNON	5	28-2-0	9	66-6-0
IAN	LEE	4	38-4-0		
LEE	BLAGDEN	6	29-9-0	9	46-2-0
JON	CLEGG	3	16-9-0		
MATT	MEEHAN	4	9-2-0	9	23-12-0
CHRIS	JONES	5	14-10-0		
MATTHEW	MARSHALL	5	11-10-0	10	16-8-0
RYAN	MARSHALL	5	4-14-0		
PETE	PATTON	6	24-14-0	11	49-12-0
LEE	JONES	5	24-14-0		
PAUL	COWERN	5	18-14-0	11	31-5-0
DAMIAN	GREEN	6	12-7-0		

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STILL GOING STRONG!



Over five years after its development, **Browning's Z12** still graces the holdalls of many UK anglers. Its international project manager, Jürgen Masuch, explains why.

The Z12 project began as a concept in late 2010 and was triggered by the success of our Xitan Z9. Instead of simply upgrading the Z9, we literally got a blank sheet of paper and produced a wish list of things that we felt should be found on the perfect pole.

Materials had changed, but some parts of pole design were stuck in the 20th century (pre 2000), and anglers had to accept things like long, thin tips – which started life on bamboo poles! This should have been unacceptable and I can't think of another market in which a buyer would accept a £2,000-plus product that they have to get a saw and cut a big piece off it before it can be used!

Some of these problems were a legacy of when poles were only used for small fish. Fishing had moved on but the pole makers had never been challenged, so kept reproducing to the same old designs, just in better materials... and anglers kept cutting increasingly expensive bits of pole off! They then went

on the same old search for bushes to fit and so on. It could be a two-week project just getting a new pole elasticated and fit to use! With the Z12 you could be fishing 10 minutes after you bought the pole!

Another dragon to be slayed was 'short' 16m poles. The Z12 was designed in the UK and mainly for the UK market, so a key requirement was for the pole to measure a true 16 metres... ready to fish and without a dolly butt.

The prototype was tested and refined for a full year so we could be 100 per cent sure it was up to the job.

To achieve this we had to use longer butt sections because there is no other way of reaching 16 metres unless you cheat with long top kits or long middle sections. The problem here is that anglers are often uncomfortable with long top kits, and longer middle sections are prone to breaking. The long butts can be

a problem in a small car but many anglers seem to have vans or estate cars these days! We do still produce conventional-length poles, but think that the long butts are something that other makers will eventually follow.

A downside of having a true 16m pole is that everybody seems to compare its weight and other technical aspects with the 'short' poles from our competitors, even though ours are typically two feet longer. The Z12 was also designed at 16 metres instead of the more usual approach of producing a nice 13m pole and then adding two extensions.

It was very important that the Z12 was strong. We sell poles across Europe and commercial carp fishing is child's play compared with catching barbel from the Danube on 60g flat floats! We could have made the Z12 even lighter and stiffer but there's no place for a weak pole in Browning's range. The Z12 is certainly not unbreakable but, judging by the feedback from owners and the low volumes of spares we sell, it's proved to be



a tough, reliable and long-lasting pole.

Among other things on the wish list that made it onto the pole were wear-resistant and strengthened joints; reinforced hand grips and elbow areas; ready-to-use pre-bushed single-length top kits; Pole Protector mini butts with skid bungs for the 4th onwards; easy-ship-surface finish; minimal paint, plus much more. We tried to think of everything, even the size of the tubes that top kits are supplied in were designed to be re-used to carry two elasticated kits.

Like all our poles, the prototype was heavily tested and refined on the bank for a full year so that we could be 100 per cent sure it was up to the job. A good measure of the Z12 is that it is still selling well more than four years after its launch. They are quite rare and expensive on the second-hand market, so owners are staying with them. We invest a lot of time and effort in our poles and our customers invest a lot of their cash in buying one, so long product life is important to Browning. Nobody wants to buy the latest pole only to find that it's obsolete a year or so later. A stable product base also helps us to



provide a good spares service.

There were some things on the wish list that we couldn't do back in 2011. As an example, we wanted square section short-butts to eliminate the terrible elbow pain suffered when fishing at long lengths. These were impossible five years ago but we now have a carbon process for making the square shape, so we introduced them on the Z14-1. This in itself is an evolution of the original Z12 design. We also include the square section Pole Protector in our new 2eX-S range of mid-priced poles, so it's also an example of how we can filter our top-end technology onto lower priced products so that more anglers can benefit. As car makers sometimes say to justify expensive racecar development 'racing improves the breed'. ■

READER'S VIEW

**POLE FISHING READER
PETE COX
VIA FACEBOOK**

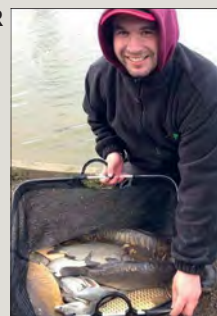
I have owned a Z12 since 2012, and I'm still very impressed with it!

It caught my eye as one of the few 'true length' poles, and I loved the pole protector sections that come with it. At around £75 each, the extra kits that you can purchase on top of the spares package are great value too!

The pole seems to have much greater wall strength than any of the other poles that I looked at during the time I was in search of a new pole. The ends of the sections are reinforced, but this doesn't seem to hinder handling or weight. The minimalist graphics make the pole 'unsticky' when shipping in and out. Although the pole was similar in stiffness and responsiveness to others in the price range, it simply felt better.

Obviously I purchased it and have not regretted buying it; it's the perfect tool for the job for me.

If I do have one one bugbear it was that it took me five weeks to receive a spare section back. Nevertheless, I love the Z12 and will be keeping it for another couple of years at least before I think of upgrading!



THE ANGLER'S VIEW...

**ADAM RICHARDS
COMMERCIAL MASTER**

I don't pride myself on this, but as a serious angler I'm very rough and demanding with my tackle. However, my Z12 could handle literally everything that I threw at it. One day I'd be fishing shallow at 16 metres for big carp, while the next I'd be fishing for skimmers in over 15 feet of water on my local River Tees. The adaptability and consistency of the top kits meant that I was always fishing very accurately, and whether I was striking into big carp down the margins, or delicately lifting into shy bites from FIs, it never let me down.



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MORE THAN A WHISKER AHEAD...

Feast your eyes on **Daiwa's** latest 16m Whisker XLS, a pole with enhanced performance and carbon technology, which can be yours in this unmissable competition!

This legendary name continued to grace the display of UK-manufactured poles at the 2015 Daiwa trade show. However, the previous black sections with gold writing have been replaced with classy Diamond Satin silver paint, and with the expertise of Daiwa's specialist engineers, the performance has breached further performance barriers... hail the Daiwa Whisker XLS!

It wasn't long after a greeting from Daiwa's Robin Morley and Stephen McCaveny that the Pole Fishing team was sat in the pole alley of the show, being handed the latest weapons for the coming year – one of which was the Whisker XLS.

not only mean the pole is better balanced, but stiffer and more responsive than the original.

On the package front, the customer is open to several options. You can purchase the pole alone – perfect if you already own a Whisker, have plenty of kits and simply want an upgrade. This can be purchased at a promotional price of £1,350.

There are then two kit packages available – the More Match and More Power. The More Match package includes five match top-three kits, two Interlastic power kits, a short No4 section, and a Tournament cupping kit. The More Power pack will give you five Interlastic power kits, two match top-three kits, a

The customer is open to several options. You can purchase the pole alone – perfect if you already own a Whisker, have plenty of kits and simply want an upgrade.

The butts of this pole, that is the 13m, 14.5m and 16m sections, have each been made 10 centimetres longer. The engineers have adjusted the patterns and materials used within these sections, as well as those further down the pole in the No6, No7 and No8 sections. All the pole sections do, however, remain compatible with the previous models of this pole.

Alterations have also been made to the match kits, which have been cut back so the pole is exactly 16 metres without the addition of any dolly butts. The changes

short No4 and a Tournament cupping kit. The tip section of the Interlastic kits are big bore, allowing optimum and smooth performance of hollow elastics on commercials. Both the More Match and More Power packages carry a promotional price of £1,775.

We're lucky enough to have one of these latest Whisker XLS packages in the office and you can catch a full live review on this in next month's On Test! However, in the meantime, we're giving you the chance to win one of the packages right now!

**WORTH
£2,650!**



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One lucky reader will win their choice of a More Match or More Power Whisker XLS 16m pole package worth an RRP of **£2,650!**

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To stand a chance of winning simply call the number below

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and correctly answer the multiple-choice question. You can also enter by post. Send your answer on a postcard to Daiwa Pole Competition, Pole Fishing, 1 Whittle Close, Drayton Fields, Daventry, Northants NN11 8RQ.

Q: How much have the new Whisker XLS butt sections been lengthened by?

- A: 10 centimetres
- B: 50 centimetres
- C: 100 centimetres

Terms And Conditions

Calls cost £1 plus your phone company's access charges. The competition runs from midday on Friday, December 4th, 2015. The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries received by 11am on Friday, January 1st, 2016. The editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.



* Because your prize is made up of valuable items, it is advised that you collect these in person from the DHP offices, which are open 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Please call to arrange collection prior to leaving, though, so that we can ensure your prize is ready for you. Alternatively, we can send your prize via courier but we will accept no liability for any loss or damage that occurs during transit.



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Tri-Cast's latest masterpiece in pole technology from its British factory is the all-new **VENOM PRO 14M**.

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These advancements have been achieved by using a military grade of carbon fibre and a new construction process, which give the pole a much lighter feel and perfect balance, plus increased stiffness and response – put it under pressure and the **VENOM PRO 14M** comes into its own.

The pole features the Tri-Cast Super Slide finish for smooth shipping, reinforced joints to ensure a long life and the top kits have a reinforced band to allow drilling to fit puller kits.

A British pole at a price that makes it exceptional value for money, the **VENOM PRO 14M** is a truly amazing pole for any venue and in any situation.

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Become A **SILVER-FISH SUPREMO!**

Preston Innovations Pole Fishing Pairs champion **Andy Power** reveals some of his silver-fish secrets that helped him and his fishing partner, **John Harvey**, win the prestigious title!

Commercial silver-fish fishing is a real boom area of our sport. Throughout the summer months anglers become obsessed with carp and FIs, neglecting the seemingly endless supply of quality silver fish that just about every commercial in the country has.

However, this is no bad thing. The fish thrive on this neglect and come winter there is superb sport to be had by targeting roach, skimmers and perch. Not only do they guarantee you a great day's action but more and more venues are now running silver-fish-only matches to accommodate anglers who just want to keep getting bites, despite the plunging temperatures!

In fact, one of the very best leagues with that fantastic silver-fish slant is run by this very magazine, in the shape of the Preston Innovations Pole Fishing Pairs. My partner John Harvey and I were fortunate enough to win the event last year and I wanted to share some of the key points that I believe will help you in your quest for silver-fish success.

FLOATS YOU CAN TRUST!

While there are some exceptions, for the most part commercial venues are relatively shallow in the grand scheme of things. To »

When the weather turns cold, there are few things that Andy loves more than plundering commercial silvers!

ANGLER FILE**ANDY POWER**

Age: 27

Lives: Wells

Sponsors: Preston Innovations, Sonubaits

Pole: Preston M90

VENUE FILE**WOODLAND VIEW FISHERY**

Location: Hay Lane, Hadley,

Worcestershire WR9 0AU

Contact: 01905 620872

Website: www.woodlandviewfishery.co.uk



Many commercials are stuffed with big roach like this, that have grown fat on anglers' protein-rich feeds.



Cad-Potting a small amount of bait instead of loose feeding can bring an instant response.

this end, I carry just a brief selection of rigs that feature some key float patterns that I have used a lot and can trust!

Much of my fishing is done with maggots and casters and for these baits you simply cannot go wrong with a Preston PB Silver 7. They are so versatile and are a mainstay in my approach. Caster fishing can often be about using strung shotting patterns and these floats allow me to watch the rig fall, with each shot registering on the bristle. However, on some days 'decking' the bait can be better and I can do that with these too. In short, a fantastic pattern for commercial silvers.

The other pattern that I couldn't be without is the PB Inter 2. This is a fairly bog-standard round-bodied float with a carbon stem and medium-thickness hollow bristle. To be honest, this is a do-all, go-anywhere type of float and if I need to fish baits such as worms, then this is always the float I choose.

These two patterns would do you proud if you were looking to fish for commercial silvers and it is only when bloodworm and joker get involved that you need to look at a few more float options.

RIGS – LIGGERS AND FAFFERS!

To do well on these silver-fish events

you need to be positive and that means relatively straightforward rigs are by far the best. Mine fall firmly into two camps – liggers and faffers!

The liggers are the rigs that utilise the PB Inter 2. They are always shotted with a bulk and two droppers and are generally fished two or three inches overdepth, depending on the strength of the wind or the tow. These venues often have large numbers of big skimmers and tench and fishing a larger hook bait such as a segment of worm or a grain of corn on this rig can really help pick them out. The faffers incorporate the PB Silver 7s in various sizes but usually a 4x10 or 4x12. Essentially, I set these rigs up to catch through the water, so they are shotted simply with No11 shot spread about five inches apart. Of course, I will change this shotting pattern if I feel the need but generally it works very well and is great for presenting casters and maggots. This rig can also be used for fishing shallow should the situation arise. On some days when loose feeding the fish will naturally be drawn shallow, and this is when a lot of them can be caught quickly. A simple 4x10

PB Silver 7 is ideal for this but I tighten the shotting slightly and have the shot spaced about two inches apart.

WHERE TO FISH

There are two distinctive feeding styles that can score for this type of fishing. The first is simple loose feeding, usually with casters. This approach is normally best done within seven metres of your bank, typically a top kit and three sections.

Loose feeding casters on a short pole is perhaps the most universal of attacks. I would be happy to use it anywhere and catch a load of fish! Better still, it is really simple and typically I will simply loose feed 15 to 30 casters by hand every few minutes. Naturally, I need to tailor the amount to what is happening in the peg. If there are a lot of tiny fish in it then upping the amount of casters and feeding less often can work a treat. If the fish come shallow, dropping the quantity of casters but increasing the frequency works wonders. However, to start with I like to feed 15 to 30 casters every



One of Andy's 'faffer' floats...



... and a 'ligger' setup for picking out the bigger fish!



Preston's PR 412s are great for maggot and caster fishing.



Preston Innovations Dura No8 Hollo is Andy's choice for winter skimmers and FIs.



If you can get away without breaking down, you will often find that you can catch a lot quicker!

three or four minutes and work it out from there.

The second key approach is feeding to catch on the bottom over larger quantities of bait. This could be a line fed with several balls of groundbait, or it could be fed with worms and casters. The principle is to feed large amounts of bait at the start with the intention of catching quality fish on the bottom. On venues where it is allowed, I will always feed a line with three or four balls of groundbait (usually a fishmeal mix). This is fished at 13 metres plus and will include chopped worms, casters and dead maggots, basically aiming to catch skimmers. This swim would then be topped up with small nuggets of groundbait that is full of bait. This will help keep the fish on the deck where I can catch them easily by presenting a static hook bait over the top.

On places like Barston two or three FIs could add 10 to 12lb to your end result.

I am not allowed groundbait here so I have used the long pole as a chopped worm and caster swim. Half a pot of worm and caster mix was fed at the start and I have simply topped the peg up with a Cad Pot after every third fish. Feeding every time I shipped out just saw the fish come off the bottom.

ELASTIC PERFECTION

Elastic choice is vital because there is a very fine line between success and failure in this department! I choose three solid elastics and one hollow and find that they cover me. Solid Original Slip No5 and No6 are great all-rounders and will pretty much cover you for most roach and skimmer situations. The No5 is great when every fish has to count or when the average stamp of fish is a bit small. The No6 has just that little bit more poke and is better for deeper swims.

Double No4 is my next elastic and this one is only reserved for bigger fish situations. Some lakes have a lot of tench and big perch and I like this elastic for those situations where I need that little bit more power.

Finally, I use the Dura Hollo 8. It is a fact that FIs play a big part in silver-fish matches. Often it is not a case of bagging up with them, but on places like Barston two or three FIs could add 10 to 12lb to your end result. That is when the Dura 8 scores. It is soft enough to catch roach and skimmers but should the FIs turn up it works well. >>>



Big brown goldfish like this are a welcome bonus on any day.

BAIT CHOICES

The Pole Fishing Pairs allows bloodworm and joker but this bait isn't generally allowed so I am going to focus on the baits that are allowed everywhere.

Casters are an absolute must as far as I am concerned. They are brilliant as loose feed for roach, can be fed in groundbait as a holding bait for skimmers, or can be Cad-Potted for FIs. In short, you simply have to use them!

Maggots and pinkies are another mainstay and can be used to great effect either live or dead. Pinkies often get overlooked on commercials but I have found them to be very effective. Take today for example, I have loose fed pinkies on a 4m line and it has been excellent for roach. I find two or three to be an excellent skimmer hook bait when fished over groundbait.

Worms are another must-have.

Once the water drops really cold then I won't feed so many worms, but as long as the days are relatively mild they are a great bait. Finely chopping the worms is a must in my eyes and creating a worm mush is essential once it gets cold. It means maximum attraction without filling the fish up too much. Better still, unlike in summer, you don't need loads of worms and 1kg might last you all winter!

Finally, I always carry sweetcorn. As I said, FIs are often important and feeding a negative sweetcorn line somewhere in the swim can work well. You don't need much and feeding three or four grains at a time is often all you need.

KEEP CATCHING!

The number-one lesson I can give is to keep yourself catching. It is easy to get drawn into trying to catch bigger species such as bream, FIs or tench, but the reality is that they only feed in short periods throughout winter.

I base my attack around getting bites on the shorter-pole swims with casters and pinkies. Just keep putting roach in the net and observe what other anglers are doing. As soon as they start catching bigger fish, try the longer swims with more positive hook baits in search of bigger fish. But don't waste time, if the fish are there and feeding, bites will come quickly. If no bites come within two minutes then I will swap back to my other swims.

There has never been a better time to get onto commercials to enjoy the superb silvers sport and if you follow my simple tips, I am sure you will be able to have some wonderful days fishing. ■

Andy always feeds a number of short-pole swims to allow him to keep catching small fish for the duration of the day.



A small piece of worm is Andy's go-to hook bait.



All smiles for Andy with a cracking net of commercial silvers!





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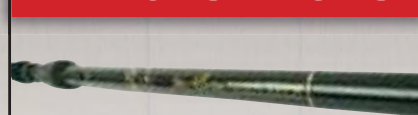


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Ask

ALAN

Five-time world champion **Alan Scotthorne** answers your questions. How to get set up quickly and the benefits of doubled-up elastic are on his radar this month...



WINNER

*It's A Set Up!
I'm always struggling to get set up in time for the start of a match. Even if I mix my groundbait and pump my pellets the night before, I still struggle to be ready before the all-in. Do you have any tips that might make me quicker because I'm losing out on valuable match time, which means I'm playing catch-up from the start. Any advice would be appreciated!*

Andy Houghton

Not having enough time to rig up is actually a big pet hate of mine! I think it's becoming more of a problem on commercials, especially where the fishery owner isn't an angler and perhaps doesn't quite appreciate just how long people need. I'd love to see more 'rolling draw' systems in place that allow anglers who want plenty of time to get drawn and off to their pegs early.

If your groundbait and pellets are already prepared then I think the biggest thing you can look at is your equipment and minimising the time it takes to have it all in place. Just getting it to your peg is a consideration if you cannot park immediately behind it. I find it's often quicker to load all your

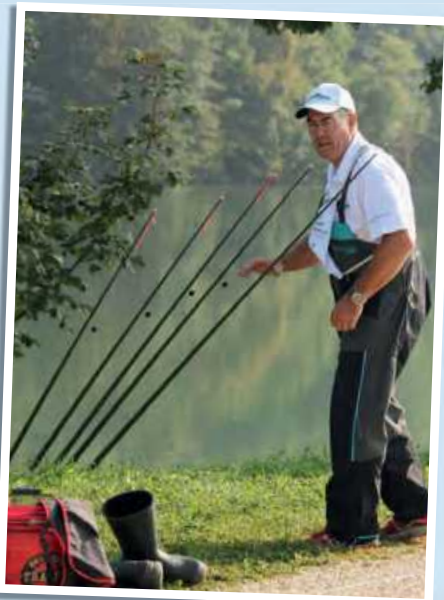
gear on a trolley rather than make two, three or four journeys back and forth.

A really big time saver for me has to be quick-release attachments. I now have these on my keepnets, roosts, banksticks; anything that normally has to be screwed on and off. These allow me to quickly clip on everything in seconds. I also try to leave as many of these attachments on my box as possible. This way I can get to my peg, put my box down, clip a few things on and then get on with the more time-consuming tasks of rigging up and plumbing up.

I am not a fan of taking top kits to my peg with rigs already attached because, unless every peg is completely uniform in depth, I cannot see how you can know what's right



Fishing at the very top means Alan has to be well prepared with a disciplined setting up regime.



until you've surveyed the peg on the day. So many things can affect the choice of rig I might use, so I'd rather just make sure I have plenty of rigs to cover all eventualities.

I would rather be one of the first anglers in the draw queue and then go straight to my peg after drawing, rather than hanging around getting advice off anyone. This is something I always prefer to do now because it's all too easy to get misleading advice from someone who isn't actually at your peg. I'd rather look at it with an open mind, survey the water for signs and let the conditions on the day dictate the choices I make.

Ultimately, though, unless you can convince the match organiser that you need more time, it's all about being organised, well prepared at home, reaching your peg in plenty of time and getting into a regular setting up routine.

Hooklength Length

Can you point me in the right direction regarding hooklength lengths? When, why and what do you take into account when using different hooklengths? Also, can you add shot to a hooklength, or do you advise against this?

Abs, Cheshire

What hooklengths to tie and carry is perhaps a little different for a travelling angler like myself, who fishes up and down the country and all over Europe. To do this correctly I find myself having to tie countless hooklengths with all permutations of hooks and line. If I were only fishing locally then I am sure this would be a lot different!

I know some very successful anglers who have started storing all of their hooklengths in hook boxes on 30 centimetres (12 inches) of line. They then cut them down to suit the venue and the day. This obviously saves tying time but I still find it easier to tie various traces for certain venues or styles of fishing.

I don't ever put a shot on my hooklengths, so the length is dictated by how close to the hook I want my last dropper shot to be. It could be as short as 10 centimetres

(four inches) if I want to see bites really quickly. This can be the case with certain styles of roach or F1 fishing, for example. The furthest I would place it for normal pole fishing situations on a stillwater would probably be 20 centimetres (eight inches). An ideal situation would be when I wanted to fish with some line on the bottom for bream, a species that will often hang onto a bait before swimming off with it.

The actual length can vary and there really isn't a definitive rule you can follow. For instance, I know some top anglers are adamant that a 4in hooklength is best for pellets, yet I see equally good anglers doing as well with longer 6in bottoms with the same bait. I once witnessed a guy catch over 200lb with pellets on the bottom and checked his rig to see he was using a 20in hooklength with no shot on it! I think that says it all; you should choose a length that's right for you and suits your style of fishing. >>>

Alan prefers to have a range of 10cm to 20cm hooklengths tied up in advance.



Doubled Up

Please can you tell me what the benefits of double or sometimes treble elastics through your top section are and why?

Steve Toward, Derby

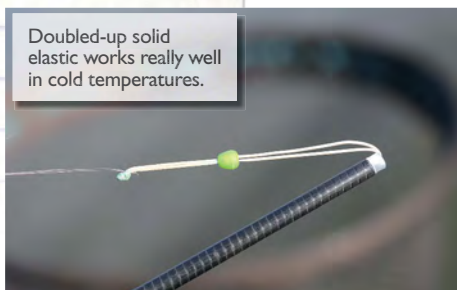
I never use treble elastic but doubled-up solid elastic is something I am a big fan of. You perhaps need to go out and try it to fully appreciate just how well it works in a top kit. I also use single lengths of solid elastic up to No8 but find doubled-up No3, No4, No5, No6 and even doubled-up No8 can work really well in the right circumstances.

This is definitely now the time of year that I prefer to start using it because it has lots of advantages over hollow elastic in winter. Firstly, hollow elastic can misbehave once it gets cold. I have tried all makes and grades and they all behave erratically once the temperature drops. Even if you lubricate it, hollow elastic can start sticking, drooping and generally just not running as smoothly as it does in spring and summer.

Solid elastic is much more reliable. It is very soft on the strike and being much lighter than hollow equivalents can make a big difference to the responsiveness of your pole. This is



Doubled-up solid elastic works really well in cold temperatures.



particularly important at this time of year, when you often find that you have to fish much longer lengths to be in touch with the fish and also when you need to wait longer for bites.

You can use doubled-up solids in summer but it's not as durable and not as stretchy. Hollow is still my number-one choice when it's warm. It is much more durable and lasts a lot longer before you have to change it. It also stretches further and gives you an extra insurance factor if you hook a bonus fish that charges off. You definitely seem to have more chance of getting these bigger fish in with the extra stretch of hollow elastic.

Dear Alan,
Why is it that my dad always seems to draw so much better than me in a match? He always seems to be sat on the end peg, on the widest part of the lake, or right in the middle of all the fliers? Do certain anglers have a particular drawing technique?

Oliver Scotthorne,
Rotherham

Now... but these people always seem to have cheeky sons who 'borrow' their dad's best tackle and bait, then make excuses when they don't catch as much as their old man! ■



Why do some people always seem to draw better than others?

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Top Response

Tom Scholey takes to the bank at Docklow Pools with Preston's new £1,000 M50 pole and is left extremely impressed!



If you are after a pole for £1,000, you simply have to have a look at Preston Innovations' new M50 before making your purchase.

This is one of the best mid-range poles that I have ever had the privilege of testing.

So what makes the M50 perform so well? Well, according to Preston, the first advantage that it has over other poles is the material that it is made from – namely the same 100 per cent Torayca high-modulus Japanese carbon fibre as the flagship M90.

It is a matter of some pride to Preston that they are the only company using Toray fibre exclusively. This is why it is the only company in the UK that is allowed to use the 'Torayca' badge and logo on its poles and in its catalogue.

What I find impressive about all poles in the 'M' range is the level of attention that has been given to the spares package. The M50 is a true 16 metres when fitted with the reinforced half extension, which is supplied as standard. Including the 16m half extension, which also fits the 14.5m section, the package contains three mini extensions, two of which are bi-conical and fit sections 5/6 and 7/8 respectively, giving you the option of protecting the ends of whatever section you happen to be using, from a No5 upwards.

Then there are the top kits! Being designed primarily by Des Shipp, it will come as no surprise that the pole is supplied with seven kits. All are 2.4 metres in length – perfect for use with soft hollow elastics. Three of these are match kits and four are Roller Pulla power kits that require no cutting back because all are pre-bushed and ready to



Even at long lengths the pole was a dream to use.

elasticate and fish with straight out of the bag!

As if the package wasn't sweet enough, all kits are also supplied fitted with EVA elastic alignment cones that dramatically improve the performance of your elastic.

My only slight moan with regard to this is that I am not quite sure why Preston has supplied these centralising cones actually fitted within the poles, because it makes them trickier to elasticate, especially with regard to the Roller Pulla kits. You have to use a diamond-eye threader to get the elastic first through the Roller Pulla, then it takes quite a bit of manipulation to find the hole in the bung at the top. Don't get me wrong, it isn't difficult given a bit of time and effort, and once you have done it once, in theory you should be able to simply use your old elastic to pull your new elastic through. I did query this with the company, and they tell me that there is a simpler way, involving removing the

Roller Pulla kit, which which they will uncover in a Facebook video very soon though.

So how did I get on with the pole? To test it, I decided to sit on the lovely Mickey Mouse Pool at Docklow Pools near Hereford. Unsure what to expect, I decided to fish the pole at its full length of 16 metres with hard pellets my choice of bait because Matt Godfrey assured me that the lake had a big head of carp and F1s.

I had already had a waggle with this beauty at a demonstration day earlier in the year, so knew that I was dealing with a very special piece of kit before I even took it out of its tube!

The finish is fantastic, and very similar to the excellent matt-type glaze used on Middy's top-end models. At 16 metres the pole is among the stiffest and most balanced that I have felt in its price point. It felt strong too – and I know from talking to the Preston consultants who



A bag of 6mm pellets was all Tom took to his peg.



The Roller-Pulla kits work brilliantly and help to prolong the life of your elastic.



The pole is supplied pre-bushed and with elastic centralising cones fitted.



Not only does it feel great, the pole looks great too!



Docklow's Mickey Mouse Pool proved a great place to test the M50!

have fished with it that it has stood up to all the abuse that they could throw at it.

Performance-wise, it gave everything I wanted and more. Considering its mid-range price point, it's responsiveness (no pun intended) really does have to be seen to be believed. I started off catching the odd chub, and the lightening-fast bites that I was getting required a firm, fast strike to set the hook – no problem for the Response.

I hooked in to some better carp too and never felt like the strength of the pole was going to let me down, even when one of Docklow's larger residents was hooked.

I have had the privilege of handling some fantastic poles and, more than ever, the pole market is a buyer's market.

Another aspect of the M50 that I am sure will prove popular is the fact that it is totally interchangeable with all other poles in the 'M' range. So should anglers who buy the flagship M90 want a spare pole that interchanges with their main pole, they can get one for half the price of the flagship offering.

I have had the privilege of handling some fantastic poles over the last few months and, more than I have ever known, the pole market is a buyer's market. To be fair to Preston, it has taken its range to a whole new level and really raised the bar for the competition.

TECH SPEC

PRESTON INNOVATIONS RESPONSE M50

RRP: £1,099

Special Offer Prices: £999

Package: 16m pole, plus three match kits, four Roller Pulla kits, cupping kit, three mini extensions, cups, holdall

Stated length: 16m

Actual length: 16.05m

Top-kit length: 2.4m

Top-4 length: 3.88m

Top-5 length: 5.4m

Puller kits fitted: In Roller Pulla kits

Cupping kit supplied: Yes

Holdall supplied: Yes

Butt-section length: 1.82m

Butt diameter: 5cm

A better bream makes a bid for freedom but will it prove big enough to make a difference in the all-important team stakes?

CUTTING

Sensas Oakwood made a very bold move taking canal legends **Preston Innovations Blackhorse** to their local stretch of the Grand Union Canal. He who dares wins! Or does he?

Although they may not attract the drama and razzamatazz of big individual events, up and down the country there are hundreds of small, sponsored teams that battle hard in local leagues for something far more important than a few quid in winnings – local pride!

Two such rivals are Preston Innovations Blackhorse and Sensas Oakwood. Both have a fearsome reputation on their local Grand Union Canal. This challenge will see

Regularly loose feeding squatts proved crucial to all anglers.

SENSAS OAKWOOD ANGLING

Formed in 1998 under the name Oakwood Eurobait, and born out of the popular Oakwood Angling tackle shop in Welwyn Garden City, Oakwood Angling is one of the south's most well known teams.

The team has a sizeable honours list that includes the Division Two National, the Basingstoke Canal Winter League, the London Winter League and the Southern Canal League.

Between 2008 and 2011, Oakwood was captained by canal legend Pete Vasey, who shaped the team and signed many of the anglers that form the backbone of the squad today.

Since Pete left, the team has been headed up by Mick Shepherd, who helped secure a sponsorship deal with Sensas, and has ambitions for plenty more successes both on the local and national stage in the future.

**ANGLER FILE****TOM BOYCE**

Age: 58
Lives: Weedon
Sponsor: Sensas
Pole: Sensas 774

ANGLER FILE**TONY SALCZYNSKI**

Age: 54
Lives: London
Sponsor: Sensas
Pole: Daiwa Airity

THEM UP!

PRESTON INNOVATIONS BLACKHORSE

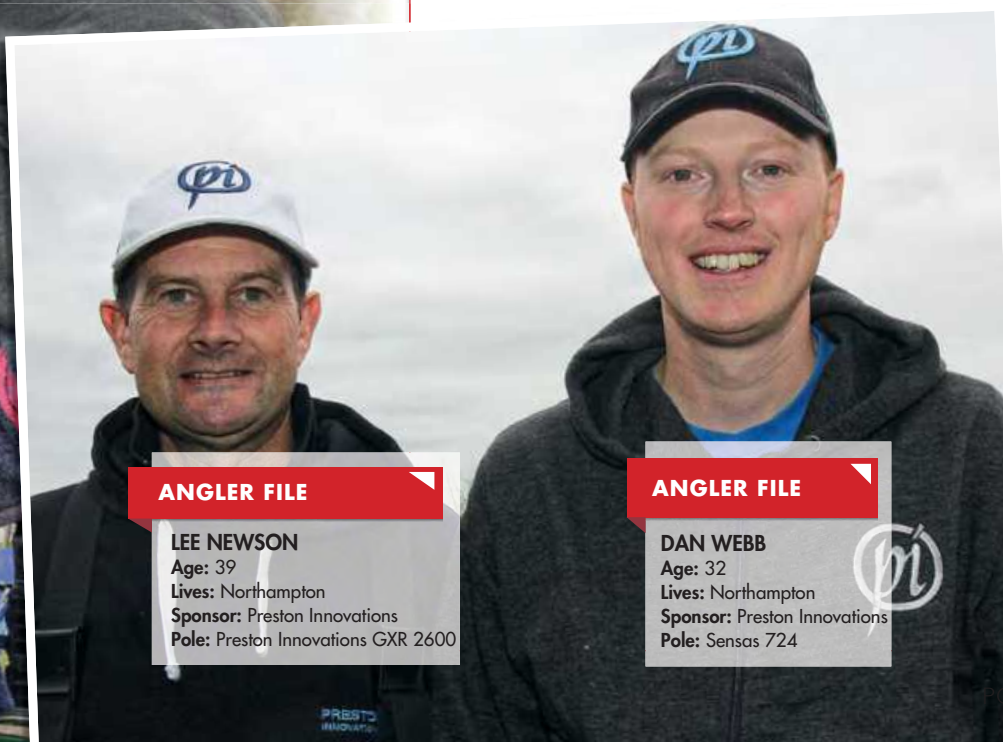
Lee Newson, Graham West and Mark Skeggs of Hotrods and Daniel Webb of Image entered as a team of four in the Wellingborough Winter League on the Leicester Arm of the Grand Union Canal.

Struggling for a name, Lee suggested reviving a legendary old canal team name – Blackhorse. On January 15th, 2006, Blackhorse entered their maiden league and ran out clear winners. That summer, the Division Two National was going to be on the Grand Union Canal, so the annual summer league was bumped up to 18 teams of four. Graham Smith joined the quartet and by taking it in turns to sit a round out, the team won its second league, beating the then hot favourites Shakespeare into 2nd. As

the anglers gathered at the results of the final round, there was a real buzz in the air and everyone could sense that something was going to happen. Right then and there, some of the best canal anglers in the area showed their interest in forming a new team and Blackhorse was born. Daniel left to carry on fishing with Image and Graham Smith took the reins as captain.

Fast-forward nearly 10 years and Daniel is back with the team and co-captains with Graham West. It has grown from a knock-up team to a respected, sponsored, highly driven outfit with wins on a variety of events and venues and is still climbing up the team fishing ranks.

Over the last 10 years, Blackhorse has won Nationals, winter league semi-finals and multiple winter leagues and smaller local leagues. >>>

**ANGLER FILE****LEE NEWSON**

Age: 39
Lives: Northampton
Sponsor: Preston Innovations
Pole: Preston Innovations GXR 2600

ANGLER FILE**DAN WEBB**

Age: 32
Lives: Northampton
Sponsor: Preston Innovations
Pole: Sensas 724



Tony uses a Drennan Choppa for his worm and caster work.



Preston Chiantis – the only float that Lee had set up!



With plenty of roach feeding, Dan saw no sense in holding back with the loose feed!

two members of each team travel to their opposition's home venue to do battle. First up, Sensas Oakwood have dragged Preston Innovations Blackhorse to the Grand Union Canal at Ivinghoe, where a small-fish race is expected to be the order of the day.

Dan probably gets off to the best start, banking a run of decent skimmers and a bonus 1lb bream on maggot over groundbait in the first 20 minutes.

Sitting pretty on the end peg nearest the road bridge is Blackhorse captain Daniel Webb. At a little over 30 years of age, Dan is no stranger to big match success, or indeed the pages of this magazine.

He explained: "I haven't seen this bit of canal before but Tom and Tony tell me that there are plenty of roach on squatt or bread tactics, and also the chance of a few

skimmers. My plan is to start off at 11 metres down the shelf looking for an early skimmer on maggot over groundbait, before trying the same over a swim fed with chopped worm and caster. If I am getting the odd bite off better fish here, I will try and keep these

coming while building my squatt line for later in the day."

Next to Dan is another face that Pole Fishing readers might find familiar, in the shape of Northampton canal legend, Tom Boyce. Fishing for Oakwood, Tom's tactics are surprisingly similar to Dan's, although there are a couple of key differences. First and foremost, Tom planned to start his match on breadpunch.

"On some days the bread can be a deadly way to start a session here because it is an



Heavy rigs seemed to catch the Oakwood lads a better stamp of roach.

instant bait. You can sometimes go in and catch double figures in half an hour if the bream feed, or other days enjoy a good run of dumpy roach. Sometimes you don't get a bite on it, or catch tiny fish, but because it is an instant bait – that is, if it's going to work it will work straightaway – you can quickly discount it if it isn't going to do the damage."

Fishing for Blackhorse the other side of Tom is canal expert Lee Newsome. An angler famous in his area for his small-fish prowess, it is no surprise that he too is basing his approach around squatt and bread fishing.

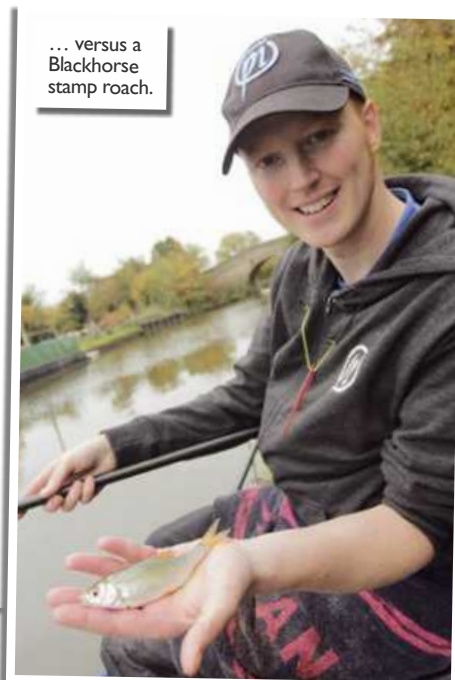
"I want to try and fish short for as long as I can, which will give me time to feed and build my long-pole swim. This way, when I go on this line, I know the fish will really be queuing up and I should be able to clatter them for the last two hours of the day!"

On the end peg fishing for Oakwood is London rod Tony Salczynski. Unlike most of the other anglers, Tony was looking to catch big fish in the last two hours, which meant a caster approach!

"Although like everyone else I am basing my approach around catching small roach and skimmers on bread and squatts to do a good job for the team, I am also a big



An Oakwood stamp roach...



... versus a Blackhorse stamp roach.



believer in giving myself the chance of a bonus, and that means a couple of big-fish lines! I will feed one just with casters and one with chopped worm and casters at 14.5 metres, which is just going up the far slope, so in slightly shallower water. I expect the last hour will be my time to strike here, and a couple of late skimmers will make me very hard to beat if I can muster them!"

ALL IN!

A four-hour duel is decided on and we call the all-in at 10.20am. All anglers are in to fish straightaway, although Dan probably gets off to the best start, banking a run of decent skimmers and a bonus 11lb bream on maggot over groundbait in the first 20 minutes. Everyone else has to content themselves with the venue's roach shoals, with all anglers seemingly discounting bread tactics fairly early and settling into a rhythm catching fish on squatts.

With all four well seasoned at squatt fishing, we are treated to a real masterclass. All seem to be trying to catch as close as possible but are having to rotate between close swims and lines at the bottom of the far shelf to keep fish coming.

After 90 minutes, Dan joins the squatt party too. With around 2½lb in his net, we put him just in front of the chasing pack.

We reckon Blackhorse have the edge when it comes to fish count, with age certainly blessing them with the greater speed and agility. However, what is also noticeable is that Tony and Tom for Oakwood are catching a better stamp of fish.

Zoom in on the rigs and you can see why. Oakwood favour far more positive rigs and shotting patterns, which seems to bomb the hook bait down past the »»

Nurturing his caster swim paid handsome dividends for Tony.



smaller fish in the upper layers to the better fish waiting below. Tom is using a positive 0.4g Mick Bassett squatt pattern with the shot bulked down, while Lee next to him is catching best on a 4x12 Preston Chianti with the shot strung right out. For sure, the lighter rigs get bites quicker but the stamp definitely seems better on a heavier rig.

For the middle two hours it is an out-and-out small-fish race and the result really is too close to call. Interestingly, the two Blackhorse anglers and Tom for Oakwood make the decision to stay on this line for the duration of the session but Tony has other ideas!

He has been priming his worm and caster lines all day, potting small amounts of bait on his line fed with worm and flicking casters over his left-hand swim. With an hour left, it's time for a look!

Two decent skimmers around 6oz apiece are his reward, so he tops up with more bait before getting back to work on his squatt line.

After a 10-minute rest, he moves back out over his chopped-worm line and straightaway he hooks into something that sees No6 elastic streaming all over the canal! Tony takes his time and a bream near 3lb soon finds itself in the bottom of his net – a welcome bonus.

No more big fish follow, but Tony doesn't waste a deal of time looking for them, he just keeps nipping out, spending a couple

of minutes looking for a bonus fish, before getting back to roach bashing on squatts.

ALL OUT!

The result really is too close to call and Dan is first to trouble the scales from the fancied end peg near the road bridge.

His net goes 10-15-0, a hectic four hours' small-fish fishing in anybody's book!

Next up, Tom drops 9-7-0 on the scales for Oakwood, before Lee's small-fish net pulls the needle round to 8-12-0. As we approach Tony on the end peg, it is calculated that Oakwood need 10-5-0 to secure a home victory. Can Tony do enough?

That bonus bream certainly comes in handy because his 11-2-0 is enough to not only win the match but also secure a narrow home victory for Sensas Oakwood.

The biggest controversy is yet to

come. It has been naturally assumed by the Oakwood boys that Blackhorse would choose a canal for their home round. After all, they are known countrywide as a canal team. Then Dan drops the bombshell that Scotland Pond at Castle Ashby Lakes is being considered as their home venue. Are they too scared to face Oakwood on a canal? Or is it just that they don't think Tom and Tony have the all-round capabilities to match them on a stillwater? We will find out next month! ■





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Alex Bones
Editor of Match Fishing



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VOTE FOR THE BEST TACKLE OF 2015!



Due to a printing error last month, some products were missed off our prestigious Tackle Awards. Here is your chance to say what tackle has impressed you the most this year!



The Categories

BEST FLAGSHIP POLE:

- ☐ Garbolino G-Max Super Legion
- ☐ Browning Silverlite 10-12
- ☐ Matrix Nemesis
- ☐ Middy Nano-Core XZ65-2
- ☐ Rive R-16 Professional
- ☐ Tri-Cast Trilogy Pro Two
- ☐ Frenzee Precision FXT 16m
- ☐ Drennan Acolyte
- ☐ Daiwa Air
- ☐ Sensas Nanoflex 984 Power Match
- ☐ Maver Signature 1000
- ☐ Preston Innovations Absolute XS
- ☐ Shimano Aspire AX
- ☐ MAP TKS 901

BEST MID-RANGE POLE:

- ☐ Garbolino G-Max Competition Carp
- ☐ Middy Nano-Core XP35-2
- ☐ Tri-Cast Iconic Pro
- ☐ Browning Xitan Allrounder
- ☐ Drennan Series 7
- ☐ Colmic F33 Airon 16m
- ☐ Daiwa Connoisseur G50
- ☐ Maver Invincible 215
- ☐ Preston Innovations GXR 260I
- ☐ Shimano Beast Master Commercial AX
- ☐ Sensas Power Carp 644
- ☐ MAP TKS 501

BEST BUDGET POLE:

- ☐ Sensas Power Carp 624
- ☐ G-System M9 13m
- ☐ Matrix Legend Power
- ☐ Middy White Knuckle CX Thriller 8m
- ☐ Tri-Cast Venom Pro
- ☐ Drennan Red Range Carp
- ☐ Daiwa TDZRI
- ☐ Maver Respect Carp
- ☐ Preston Innovations Pro Type 260
- ☐ Browning Black Magic Slimstar
- ☐ Shimano Catana
- ☐ MAP TKS 101

BEST POWER/CARP POLE:

- ☐ Browning Xitan Z10
- ☐ Garbolino Super Legion
- ☐ Sensas Power Carp 644
- ☐ Matrix Nemesis

- ☐ Middy Nano-Core XM10-2
- ☐ Tri-Cast Trilogy Margin 12.2m
- ☐ Drennan Acolyte Carp
- ☐ Daiwa Match Winner
- ☐ Maver Definition Carp
- ☐ Preston Innovations GXR Tyson
- ☐ Shimano Beast Master Commercial AX
- ☐ MAP TKS Competition Carp 2

BEST MARGIN POLE:

- ☐ G-System Margin Carp Specimen Matrix Margin X
- ☐ Browning Xitan Xtreme Margin
- ☐ Middy Nano-Core XR8
- ☐ Tri-Cast Trilogy Margin 9m
- ☐ Drennan Acolyte Margin Carp
- ☐ Colmic H1 Slim 10m
- ☐ Daiwa Multi Margin
- ☐ Maver Elite Carp Margin
- ☐ Preston Innovations Pro Type Power
- ☐ Shimano Beast Master Margin
- ☐ MAP TKS Competition Margin Range

BEST SEATBOX:

- ☐ Matrix Superbox 36
- ☐ Nordik Octbox D36 Four Drawer And Accessory Pack
- ☐ Rive STAqua D36 HSP
- ☐ Sensas 670
- ☐ Drennan Rive
- ☐ Colmic SX550
- ☐ Browning Xitan Competition Box
- ☐ MatchBox Azuro 3
- ☐ Daiwa Tournament 500
- ☐ Maver S4 UFO
- ☐ Preston Innovations Absolute Station

BEST LUGGAGE RANGE:

- ☐ Garbolino G-Max
- ☐ Matrix Ethos
- ☐ Middy Extreme
- ☐ Rive Aqua
- ☐ Tri-Cast Cocoon
- ☐ Frenzee Precision FXT
- ☐ Drennan
- ☐ Sensas London Range
- ☐ Daiwa Airity
- ☐ Browning Xitan Match
- ☐ Maver MXi

- ☐ Preston Innovations Monster
- ☐ Shimano Commercial
- ☐ MAP Parabolix Black Edition

BEST POLE FLOAT/RANGE:

- ☐ Garbolino Hard Core
- ☐ Middy Styrex
- ☐ Rive World Champion Edition
- ☐ Frenzee FO Foam
- ☐ Drennan AS
- ☐ Colmic Jolly
- ☐ (Daiwa) KC Carpa
- ☐ Maver Invincible Sloty
- ☐ Cralusso River
- ☐ Preston Innovations Durafloat Extreme
- ☐ Durafloat Extreme
- ☐ MAP Foam Bodied

BEST POLE ELASTIC RANGE:

- ☐ Matrix Stay Fresh Hollow
- ☐ Browning Stretch 7 Hollow
- ☐ Garbolino Bazookarp CoEx Hollow
- ☐ Middy Hi-Viz Shock Core Hollow
- ☐ Rive Hollow Elastic
- ☐ Frenzee Stretch Hollow
- ☐ Drennan Aqua FI & Silverfish Bungee
- ☐ Colmic 5m Hollow
- ☐ Daiwa Hydrolastic
- ☐ Maver Retro Dual Core (12-20)
- ☐ J-Range Hollow
- ☐ Preston Innovations Dura Hollow
- ☐ MAP TKS Twin Core Hollow

MOST INNOVATIVE PRODUCT OF THE YEAR:

- ☐ Matrix 3D Panoramic Pole Support
- ☐ Garbolino Hard Core Pole Float Range
- ☐ Middy Extreme Pro Connectors
- ☐ Rive STAqua D36 HSP
- ☐ Browning Xitan Square Pole Protectors
- ☐ MatchBox Pole/Rod Support
- ☐ Frenzee Eeze Glyde Side-Puller System
- ☐ Drennan In-Line Crystal Dibbers
- ☐ Marukyu Amino Plus Sprays & Gloops
- ☐ Ringer Baits Method Micros 900g
- ☐ Daiwa Yellow (Micro) Hydrolastic
- ☐ Sensas Nanoflex Pole Range
- ☐ Maver Side Footplate

- ☐ Cralusso Match Quick Snaps
- ☐ Preston Innovations OffBox PRO Accessories
- ☐ Dynamite Frenzied Hemp & Snails
- ☐ MAP PTFE Side-Puller Bush
- ☐ Guru Reaper Rest

BEST BAIT PRODUCT/RANGE:

- ☐ Sonubaits Bloodworm Fishmeal
- ☐ Old Ghost Maggot Meal
- ☐ Tri-Cast FI Short Stop
- ☐ Bait-Tech FI Groundbait
- ☐ Sensas 3000 Range
- ☐ Drennan Yum Yums
- ☐ Marukyu Amino Plus

BEST HANDMADE/ASSEMBLED FLOAT RANGE (Please state below)

BEST AFTER-SALES SERVICE (Please state below)

BEST MAIL-ORDER COMPANY (Please state below)

BEST FISHING WEBSITE (Please state below)

TACKLE COMPANY OF THE YEAR (Please state below)

BEST POLE FISHING VENUE (Please state below)

BEST POLE ANGLER (Please state below)

BEST POLE FISHING COACH (Please state below)

HOW TO ENTER:

Vote for your favourite products in each category using the simple online form at www.polefishingmagazine.com/tackle-awards/

Postal votes registered with the incorrect form last month will be contacted where possible and informed of the updated nominations. Voting deadline is 23.59pm on December 31st, 2015.

Please note: Strictly one entry per person. Multiple entries will not be accepted. Employees and members of their immediate families (including any live-in partners) of the nominated companies featured within the tackle awards, their subsidiaries and/or associated agencies are ineligible to enter. Any such entries are invalid. Suspicious voting patterns will be investigated and any apparently orchestrated voting may lead to a product or brand being suspended from that award.

LAUGH

A Minute...



Age: 18
Lives: Brighton
Occupation: Masseur
Angling Achievements: England youth international and team gold medallist
Angling Heroes: Gary Pook and Matt Godfrey

BRADLEY GIBBONS

A recent round of a winter league match on the Wey Navigation did not go how I expected. As usual, I drew an absolute flyer, Peg 49 near the renowned Scout Hut – a swim that often wins the match. With 70-plus anglers fishing, I was excited!

What I didn't know, however, was that there was a drama centre opposite too, and on the day of the match there was a performance of my favourite Disney show, Peter Pan, taking place! This meant that every half an hour or so, 20 or more kids would come running across the far bank chanting all kinds of whacky Peter Pan script!

Unfortunately, this wasn't the worst part. After a dramatic fight scene between Peter Pan and Captain Hook, there was a huge plume of fairy dust released with Peter's 'good thoughts'! The fairy dust was dry ice and the fan that pumped it out was aimed straight at the canal.



Every 20 minutes my swim was engulfed by steam and smoke, to the point at which I couldn't see my float or the angler next to me! To cut the story short, I managed to weigh in 2lb 10oz, with only 4lb winning the section. I can honestly say I have never hated a Disney character so much. To top it off, when I got home, Peter Pan was on the TV!

Got A Funny Story?

Send your amusing angling anecdotes to tom.scholey@dhp.co.uk. You never know, it might just appear in this magazine!



Age: 24
Lives: Uganda
Occupation: Hair-loss consultant
Angling Achievements: Barnsley Blacks member, multiple festival wins
Angling Heroes: Dave Brookes and Mark Wainwright

LEE HARRISON

After a long walk to the late 200s pegs on the Stainforth & Keadby Canal, the pegging had been messed up, meaning that anglers had to move and fit into the pegs where they could. Some of these were on reeds too, which needed to be flattened down to get your box in position correctly.



As it turned out, it seems that our skipper, Glenn Lawrence, hadn't quite managed to get the box stabilisation aspect of this right, and on stepping off his footplate he went back first, straight into the canal! The thing is, it's very deep – 10 feet in the middle and five feet in the margins. This meant Glenn went straight under and stayed there for a few seconds! In fact, when he popped up blowing out a mouthful of canal water, the young lad on the next peg, Kyle Wainwright, said: "I didn't think he was going to come back up!"

Luckily, Glenn was fine. We sorted him some fresh clothes and he fished the match and got a very good result! However, what followed on the Barnsley Blacks group phone message was just as funny! Matt Godfrey chipped in first with a picture of Tom Daley entering a pool with a dive manoeuvre, before John Dunnell piped up with: "What time did tha' go in skid?"

"About 10," Glenn replied.

To which John put back: "Thought so, we had a wave up the Aire & Calder Canal about quarter past!"

You've just got to love the banter that team fishing offers, it's great!



TIP OF THE MONTH

TREVOR ROBINSON

Dobbing is a deadly tactic in winter. This basically involves presenting a single hook bait in an area of the swim where you expect the fish to be hiding. Often anglers use bread or maggots for this, but I've had a lot of success using a small 6mm Micro Fluoro Sinking Dumbbell. These sink very slowly, are highly visible, and definitely seem to help you pick out the bigger carp in a shoal.



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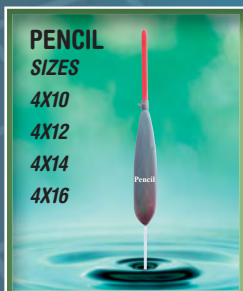
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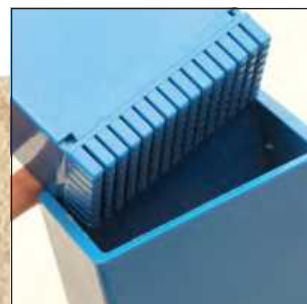
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USED & ABUSED

MEAT CUTTING MADE EASY...

Matt Godfrey explains why the MAP meat cutter is an essential item in his armoury!



There always used to be a knack to cutting up luncheon meat. I used to watch my grandad do it the night before we went fishing. After the mission of getting the tin open in the first place, you had to somehow remove the meat from it before the major operation began.

The task was to try and cut the meat into similar-sized cubes without the main chunk folding. Not only did you need to cut in straight lines for this, you also had to try and hold the block of meat together at the same time, and make three cuts before cubes appeared. If the dog was lucky, he'd get the greasy end bits. Showing me the MAP meat cutter back then would have been like showing a caveman an iPhone!

There really isn't that much to say about this device, other than the fact that it is absolutely brilliant. It takes me around one minute to open a tin of meat, cut it up and begin fishing with it.

The device works by simply placing the chunk of meat in one section and plunging it through the sharp blades into the next compartment. You can then plunge it through another set, which leaves you with cubes that are very neatly cut, and all exactly the same size. This is a huge advantage when feeding because it enables you to accurately introduce the meat when feeding by hand or with a catapult, even at distances beyond 16 metres.

What's more is the adaptability of the cutter. The blades are embedded in a small pull-out section of the cutter, allowing you to remove them. This allows you to quickly change the size of the cubes of meat that you need.

You can buy separate sizes of meat cutter blades too, and the attention to detail with these is frightening. They come in 4mm, 5mm, 6mm, 7mm, 8mm and 10mm! This may seem pedantic at first,

but the importance of this really hit home when I recently asked Steve Ringer which size of meat he had used while fishing a festival at White Acres.

"It's around 7mm, definitely bigger than sixes, but not quite eights," he replied.

To me, that is the utmost proof that size makes a difference, and MAP has every option covered with its cutters.

The device is easily cleaned and can be stored neatly with all the spare blades in the specific meat case also made by MAP. The cutter makes the job so easy; you can in fact cut up the meat as and when you need it on the bank, meaning you only use one tin at a time as fresh as you need it.

I also use the cutter to make mashed meat by simply passing the cubes back through the cutter two or three times, depending on how fine I need it. This is a perfect feed and fish attractor when mixed sloppy with a little groundbait, especially when fishing in shallow water in the margins or against a far bank.

However much meat fishing you do, I can guarantee that the MAP cutter will make your life easier!

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The Making Of A CHAMPION

Matt Godfrey meets up with current Parkdean Masters Champion, and 2014 Fish 'O' Mania victor **Andy Geldart** to find out about the highlights and tears shed along his angling journey so far...

Despite the fact that he has won £55k in just nine hours' match fishing, as someone who has fished with Andy Geldart for years now, I know only too well that the money doesn't matter to him at all.

For Andy, life is all about working hard, playing hard and enjoying himself. I've been lucky enough to shoot a series of features with him for Pole Fishing, and one question that many anglers ask him on the bank is how long has he been fishing full-time?

In all his modesty, he just smiles and says: "Ahh, it's a hard life, innit!" Little do many know that the young man is married, with a child, house and a busy full-time five-days-a-week job as a builder. I was keen to get beneath this modest crust and find out this working man's secret to success.

"I quietly pride myself on the fact that I can relate my fishing time to that of 99 per cent of general match anglers. I certainly have all the commitments that most of them do, and appreciate how hard it is to be a serious and competing matchman.

"If I draw next to the likes of Andy Power, Jamie Hughes and Lee Kerry, I expect to get beaten. They all fish during the week, have lots of practising opportunities and much more preparation time than most others. As a result, they're scarily good at fishing.

"On big individual qualifiers like the Maver Match This and Fish 'O' Mania, I feel like I can win by doing less, and last-minute preparation. I prepare just enough gear for every match in the little time I have spare, even for these big-money qualifiers. The other day, for example, the baby woke me up at 4am, so I got up and tied hooks. I'll



regularly tie rigs on my dinner breaks.

"I've also taken a small step away from team fishing, which has enabled me to enter more of these events, and in turn I've won some of them. More importantly, though, I like to think it's proof that a general match angler with the same amount of time dedicated to fishing as myself can do the same."

SHARING'S CARING

Andy's travelling and money-sharing partner, James Dent, seems to be taking the opposite route to him. After representing the England youth team, travelling to

the World Club Championship for two consecutive years with Barnsley, and bringing a gold medal home from the recent Home International, James is taking a different path in angling. While money can be a touchy subject, I was keen to find out how Andy felt about this after giving James £26,000 of his winnings from his two final victories, knowing that James isn't taking the same event route as him?

"A lot of people ask this, and often take the mickey out of me and James when we fish together. James has definitely committed himself to the international route of fishing – he wants to represent the country, and I'm certain he will. I simply cannot commit the time and effort to this style of fishing now. If I were to try to understand international fishing, bloodworm and joker, and travelling away with the England setup, I would lose my family. On James' part, I don't think you can do everything, so he'll probably sacrifice some big-money matches to fish the events that help him achieve his goals.

"Seeing him win something like a World Championship would be worth as much as giving me a 'big-final' amount of money anyway!

"Also, it's important not to forget that he has fished in numerous Match This Finals and Parkdean Masters already, and has more chance than anyone of winning one if he gets there again. If I were in the Fish 'O' Mania Final next year, I'd have him sat behind me, and give him half my winnings again! He's one of my best mates and one of the best anglers I know. The title means everything – the money is nice, but means very little." >>>





Andy's dad (left) along with best friends Danny Scott (middle right) and James Dent (right) have watched him sail to both big-money victories!



ENGLAND REJECTION

I definitely sensed a trace of negativity and hesitation in Andy's voice whenever the topic of international fishing came up. I know for certain that he's good enough to compete against anyone at all styles of fishing, and being heavily involved in the junior and intermediate squads myself, I wondered why he had never taken that route?

"As a youngster, when I found out about the England youth setup, I really wanted to be involved and attended the trials. These were, however, very disappointing. I actually went to three different ones in consecutive years. I found it very cliquey and felt that a lot of the team choice was based on the fathers of anglers.

"Nobody knew my dad, I didn't have the greatest tackle and I was never going to get picked. The anglers who were picked on the trials that I went to were very good, but there were better ones

left out. I found it very expensive for a very demoralising reward, and never went back for another trial after that. I've never paid much attention to the setup since then really, so I'm not one to say that it's the same now at all."

LEAVING OSSETT

"One of my darkest angling-related memories is definitely leaving my old team, Garbolino Ossett, after I took the decision to fish for Barnsley Blacks. Driving along a dark Leeds bypass, I was bawling my eyes out at the thought of meeting my team-mate and best friend, Mick Lodge, and explaining my decision. Deep down,

though, I knew it was the right time to do it."

As Andy told me about his move, I could sense how close he was to his old team-mates. But if he was still so close to them, why did he choose to leave them?

"Many years ago, Lee Kerry and myself were both approached by Tony Peel, then Barnsley's captain, to join. Lee left Ossett at that point, but I didn't feel ready. At the time, Tony told me that they only asked once, and said that I had to answer yes or no there and then. I had to say no.

"A year later, Barnsley asked Joe Carass to join too, and he went. This really upset me, and others in the team. Mick Lodge had been asked numerous times but wouldn't leave – if you cut him in half he'd have Ossett written across his middle. The thing that hurt the most about Joe leaving was that he was so close to all of the lads. I considered him to be a similar team man as myself; the team wasn't the same.



Andy has split his Fish 'O' Mania and Parkdean Masters winnings with travelling partner, best friend, and team-mate James Dent.

Pole Fishing can certainly spot talent. Here's a snap from a feature with Andy in 2009!



"One year later, I had another phone call asking me to join Barnsley. I had settled down with Hannah, who is now my wife, moved into a house with her and I felt it could be the right time to move and settle into a setup where serious fishing was the priority over the lifestyle I had previously had."

HAVING FUN!

Already I was keen to find out what Andy meant by this previous lifestyle. The man has always been on the straight and narrow ever since I've known him, but was there some sort of dark secret behind him that I never knew about?

"I had the time of my life while fishing for Garbolino Ossett. I met Mick Lodge, who is still one of my best friends, as well as Joe Carass and Lee Kerry. The team had a meeting every week, but it wasn't often to talk about fishing. We used to simply get drunk and roll some banter around. Sometimes we'd end up in the city centre after a meeting on a night out, and it often got messy! We never did anything wrong or harmed anyone – we were simply best mates having a brilliant time."

"On big events, we used to go practising with serious intentions, but then always seemed to find the local town or nightclub, and ended up asleep in the back of the van the following day."

"The team was amazingly good at fishing too, though, winning two Nationals when there were 80-plus teams competing! One regret that I do have is not being in the



team for these – both years they won I was away and couldn't fish! We really knew how to have a good time combined with fishing. I always think that my time with Ossett made me who I am now."

CHILD CHALLENGES

After recently having his first son with his lovely wife Hannah, it's delightful to see Andy's family future ahead of him. Only recently he brought his four-month-old son for a walk down the canal while I was practising for a team match. With the baby strapped to his chest, he came springing down the canal, mesmerising the little man by showing him the fish we were catching! Would Andy want him to get into fishing at all?

"I would absolutely love the little man to get into it. I've been very lucky in the sense that I've come from a family where I've made my own choices about what I've wanted to do. I used to play rugby, football and go fishing, but ultimately chose fishing because I loved it more than all the others."

"However, I would never force him into it, or try and push him in a certain direction. I would love him to try all the different kinds – if he wanted to go for England trials I'll support him as much as I can. He might love commercial fishing or carp fishing, or no fishing at all! He's sat behind me in the Woodlands festival when he was just over a month old, and been



down the Stainforth & Keadby Canal to see you practising bloodworm fishing."

"In fact, as I was strapping him back in the baby seat for the way home, he turned to me and I'm sure he murmured in his baby voice: 'He definitely wasn't putting his rig in right, daddy!'" ■

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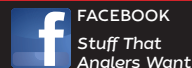


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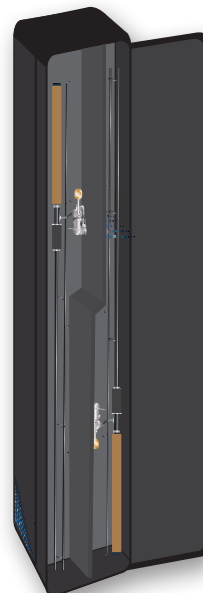
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The **BIG** Test!

Aston Park Fisheries' young guns **Danny Slack** and **Matthew Batham** swap baits halfway through a session but what was the outcome? A bag of Haribo was at stake!

THE TEST

The two youngsters carrying out the test are Worksop Junior aces, Danny Slack and Matthew Batham. They each had to choose a bait to start the session on and then swap after 90 minutes to see what effect this has on their swims.

RULES AND FORMAT

- Both anglers must fish for 90 minutes with one bait.
- After 90 minutes they swap baits.
- Anglers must continue to fish in the same swim and feed in a similar way with both baits.
- The same rigs must also be used after the bait swap.

ANGLER FILE

MATTHEW BATHAM

Age: 16

Lives: Rotherham

Sponsor: Aston Park Fisheries

Pole: Middy XZ65

VENUE FILE

ASTON PARK FISHERIES

Location: Just off Junction 31 of the M1, Aston, Sheffield

Day tickets: £5; concessions £4

Contact: 07743 845737



DANNY'S MAGGOT ATTACK

"When the weather is cooling, I love to use maggots; I'm guaranteed bites from a variety of fish. Whether I'm in a match or pleasure fishing, I try and ship back with a fish consistently. Lantra is full of carp but has a big head of ide, clonking roach as well as chub and barbel. All like maggots and I can have a simple day's fishing with less than £5 of bait.

"I plan on fishing just one swim, tight to the sedges on the far bank. The water is around two feet deep. I could go even tighter in to the far bank in the mud hole opposite, but with the cold weather upon us, I much prefer to fish in a little bit deeper water against far-bank cover. I want to draw in a lot of fish and a variety of species. The deeper water and cover should definitely help this."



MATTHEW'S PELLET ATTACK

"I've chosen pellets for all the opposite reasons to Dan's maggot choice, so it will be interesting to see what happens when we swap baits! I simply have 6mm hard fishery pellets. I'm going to use these straight from the bag. They make a loud fish-attracting noise when entering the water; really I want to avoid the silver fish and species other than carp that Dan seems to be targeting.

"For exactly this reason, I'm fishing as tight across to the far-bank mud as possible, in just 18 inches of water. Only the aggressively feeding, bigger fish will venture up into this depth and, by being patient, I'm hoping to pick out some of the bigger lumps."



Have you ever switched baits halfway through a session?

ALL-IN!

Both anglers start the session very differently. Dan ships out with a large pole pot half filled with maggots, while Matthew baits up his rig and ships straight out.

"I like to simply ping out a few pellets with a catapult to start with," says Matt. "The noise of feed hitting the water helps attract fish up onto the far-bank slope and it stops me blowing the swim by feeding too much to start with."

Dan, however, is on a very different train of thought with maggots.

"I like to feed an initial amount with a pot to get some bait on the bottom at the start. I'll then try and keep this bed there for fish to feed on by using a catapult or pole-mounted pot. I'm not scared to feed plenty of bait regularly because I know that a lot of the maggots will be getting eaten by the vast mixed head of fish in here!"

THE FIRST HALF...

Matthew is into a carp immediately, after

firing in just a dozen pellets across to the mud hole and presenting his rig right among them. At 5lb, it's a good start!

Dan is also quick to catch. His first fish comes in the shape of a 12oz ide.

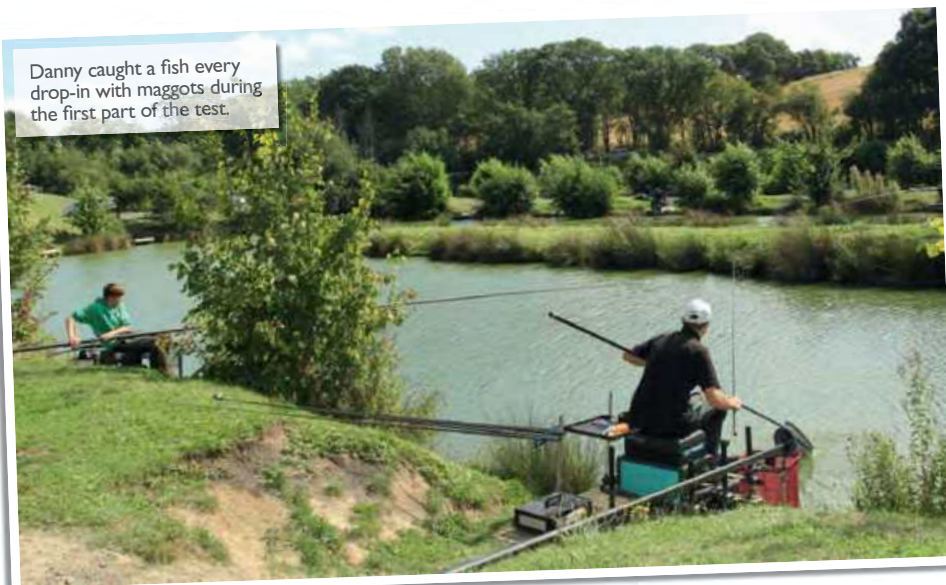
"These are typical maggot fish and you can soon catch a weight of them!" he says, plopping it in the net.

He's not wrong either, and over the next 10 minutes Matthew sits biteless while Dan catches two more ide and a barbel of around 3lb.

Matthew then hooks his second fish. Again it's a proper carp; this time a ghost carp of 4lb. After just 30 minutes, it's amazing to see just how different the responses are to the two baits. Matthew looks to be catching nothing but his five carp will probably weigh 20lb. Dan, however, is in and out all the time with roach, FIs, ide, tench, barbel and rudd but he's probably a few pounds behind on weight.

Towards the end of the 90 minutes, Danny also starts to catch an odd bigger fish. A »»

Danny caught a fish every drop-in with maggots during the first part of the test.



ANGLER FILE

DANNY SLACK

Age: 16

Lives: Rotherham

Sponsor: Aston Park Fisheries

Pole: Sensas 774

When Matt had to use maggots in the second part of the test, a mix of species, including barbel like this, came into the swim.



Danny couldn't get a bite when he had to change to fishing with pellets!

couple more barbel hit his net, along with a common carp of around 7lb. These fish are mixed in with all kinds of silvers and it's obvious that he's having an incredibly busy day's sport!

Matthew has had a much steadier first session on pellets and they have definitely been more selective during this early part of the session.

At the halfway stage, we're estimating Danny to have 30lb, while Matt's bigger fish may be edging him slightly ahead.

THE SWAP!

After 90 minutes, both anglers hop off their boxes with bait tubs in hand and make the big swap! Dan has to attach a

banded-pellet hooklength to his rig, while Matthew ties on a normal hook for putting maggots on. After just a five-minute pit stop the lads are back in action. Everything remains the same about how they're fishing, other than the bait they're using!

"I'm missing a lot more bites, whereas before I was sitting and waiting for a bite."

EFFECTS OF THE CHANGE

The action is very interesting. Both lads seem to miss a few bites and both lose several fish.

"It's dead weird!" says Dan.

"Yeah, I thought that too!" replies Matt.

"It's as if the fish have gone crazy and been confused by the changeover!"

After the short iffy period, Matt begins to put a few fish together.

"I've not changed anything from when I was fishing pellets. I'm simply feeding maggots via my catapult, spraying them against the mud hole in the far-bank sedges. There are definitely a lot more small fish coming in, though. I'm missing a lot more bites, whereas before I was sitting and

waiting for a bite. When the float went under, it was generally a big fish on the end!"

Dan is really struggling to get his swim going with pellets, even though he was catching a fish every drop-in with maggots in the same spot just a few minutes earlier!

"It's really interesting. I haven't actually caught a fish yet and we changed baits 15 minutes ago!"

"Already I think I'm going to find this second session very difficult. I've probably got a build up of maggots on the bottom, which have spread out over quite a wide area. It's going to be difficult to pinpoint any bigger fish that want to eat pellets and it will probably take a while for the fish to eat all those grubs on the deck."

THE WINNING COMBO?

Meanwhile, Matthew has started to put together a good run of fish and, like Danny in the first session, he's begun to catch a real mixture of species. Although he isn't catching the big fish that he was on pellets, he's consistently putting fish in the net.

"Unlike Danny, who has found the bait change detrimental to his catch rate, I'm actually getting more bites than I was before, but they're from smaller silver fish. These weren't in the swim when I was fishing pellets but changing to maggots has definitely drawn them in."

Dan managed to catch an odd smaller carp after an hour but with 30 minutes to go he decides to try something to try and draw a few clearer conclusions.

"I'm convinced that fishing with pellets over the top of where I've been fishing

Neither of the lads caught a single silver fish on pellets.

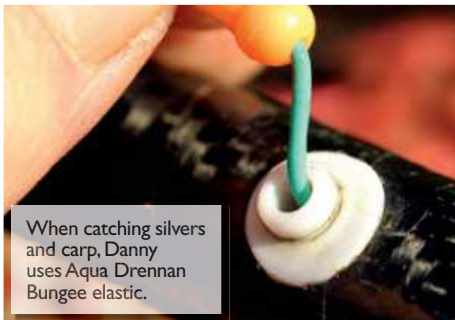




Dan set up heavy and light rigs for maggots.



Matthew was well prepared for the pellet session!



When catching silvers and carp, Danny uses Aqua Drennan Bungee elastic.



In wind, keeping the feeding tight with a pole-mounted pot helps.

maggots is no good; the fish don't like it! I think there are too many free offerings on the bottom and when a bigger fish does come into the swim, the chances of it pinpointing my hook pellet are slim to none.

"I might be bending the test rules here but I'm keen to draw a conclusion, so I'm starting up a new swim to my right, where I've fed no bait at all. I'm going to tap in a few pellets with a pole-mounted pot and see what response I get in a fresh area of the peg. I'm using the same rig and fishing in the same depth of water. The only difference is that I've not fished there with a load of maggots before."

Amazingly, it's just five minutes before Dan is into a carp. Better still, another three quickly follow on this new line before it's the all-out!

CONCLUSIONS!

On lifting out the nets, Matthew is the victor with close to 80lb and wins the bag of Haribo prize. However, Dan isn't far behind, with just under 70lb, thanks to the late run on his new swim.

The lads have drawn some very clear conclusions.

"Maggots were good all day from what I saw," says Matthew. "Danny got off to a great start on them, catching a real mixture of fish. Then, when I changed to them after I'd been fishing with pellets, I caught very similarly. If anything, I had an odd bigger carp on maggots, and I put this down to the fact that I'd fed pellets in the early part of the session and drawn a lot of bigger fish into the area."

"For me, the sessions proved just how selective pellets are. Matthew only caught big fish after starting the session on them, while I caught allsorts on maggots. However, just minutes after changing to pellets on the same swim, I couldn't catch a fish."

"There were still fish present. I missed the odd bite and foul hooked a carp or two, which came off. All the time, though, I felt like the swim was messed up due to all the maggots that I'd fed before."

"Opening a new swim late on was a brilliant move. I was fishing on a clean, fresh bottom and by feeding small amounts of bait, very much like Matthew did with a catapult, I caught fish near enough instantly. Every one was a proper carp, cleanly hooked."

"I feel like we've learnt a lot," Matthew chips in. "Starting on maggots was a brilliant way to begin the session, getting loads of bites and catching every drop-in." "Definitely," agrees Danny. "Then you could assess how the lake was fishing! If it was difficult, you could continue fishing with maggots and enjoy a catch-everything day. However, if there was an odd bigger fish showing, you could start a new swim out of the way with pellets. It was obvious that you couldn't catch on pellets over the top of maggots."

"By the same token, you might be able to start on pellets to try and nick an odd big fish like you did," says Dan. "It didn't seem to do any harm feeding maggots over the top. Perhaps that's a better ploy if you expect the fishing to be good?"

The two youngsters have done a fantastic job in the Big Test and certainly provided us with superb ideas and conclusions. It's scary to think the two are just 16 – well done lads!



A great experiment with some firm conclusions – and Matthew took the Haribo home!



WHY LINE LEN

Rob Wootton helps you understand how the length of line between your pole tip and float can influence the number and size of fish you catch on rivers...

TACTICS ON THE DAY...

You join me on the River Soar near Mountsorrel, in Leicestershire, on a swim that gives me several options to demonstrate the effectiveness of different lengths of line between float and pole tip.

Looking at the swim, I can see two main areas to target. The first is a close swim over the top of the nearside weeds, where there is a slow flow at around six metres out. The next is a longer-pole swim in the main flow of the river. I can see that the fastest water in the swim is here, and plumbing up reveals that this is the deepest channel too. I also have the cover of a boat moored up opposite!

My ploy is to target bigger fish such as perch, tench and big roach on the shorter swim in the slower water with the cover of the nearside reeds, while the main line of flow is perfect for targeting roach. These fish often sit in the main flow, picking off the food and insects that drift down to them.

ANGLER FILE

ROB WOOTTON

Age: 52

Lives: Leicester

Sponsors: Shimano, Dynamite

Pole: Shimano Aspire

VENUE FILE

RIVER SOAR

Location: Waterside, Mountsorrel, Leicestershire

Controlling club: Wreake AC

GTH MATTERS!



HOW IT WORKS...

1) Lenth Of Run

Firstly, it determines how far down your swim you can let your rig run. For example, if you had a length of line just one metre long, you can only run your rig down the swim a metre or so before it becomes tight to the pole tip, holds the float back and begins to drift in closer to you. If you have a longer length of line, say four metres between float and pole tip, you can run the rig much further down the swim before the line becomes tight and the rig begins to drag in closer.



2) The Flow Line

This leads on to the next reason why attention to line length on rivers is vital. The water is normally flowing and bait that you introduce generally follows the natural line of flow. For example, if you fire in maggots and the flow is in a straight line down the swim, they will float down the river on this line of flow until they settle on the bottom. Having a long length of line between float and pole tip allows your rig to follow this same path exactly, and you'll often find that the spot you get bites is where the feed is landing. However, with too short a line you run the risk of dragging the rig out of position and off the flow line before the rig has got to this spot, where more and bigger fish often intercept the bait.

3) Rig Control

The final reason is to do with rig control. On rivers, you can induce bites and catch various fish by running the rig through in different ways. For example, sometimes you may want to let the rig run through at the same pace as the river, so a very long line enables you to let the rig run through at this pace throughout the length of the swim. However, you may also want to work the float through the swim, holding back slightly to slow the bait down or flick it up and entice a fish into taking. Doing this can be tricky with too long a line between float and pole tip, so a medium-length line of two metres or so can be better. This allows you to explore the swim to a decent extent, but at the same time keep in touch with the float and control it.

Another form of presentation that is deadly on rivers is holding a bait almost static, or very slowly inching it through the swim. For this, a short line of around one metre is normally best, allowing you to accurately control the rig over the baited area. »»



FEEDING AND LINE LENGTH

HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE RELATIONSHIP...

Short Lines

On my shorter swim I plan on balling in four big balls of Dynamite Frenzied Hemp Black Match groundbait, mixed with molehill soil. This will contain a few chopped worms, as well as casters and hemp. It is vital to understand that this bait lies still in a small area on the bottom, and any feeding fish will come into this area and pick the free offerings out of the groundbait. For this reason, I need to ensure that I present my hook bait over this area all the time to maximise my chances of catching, and that's where I need to consider the length of line between my float and pole tip.

I'm targeting bigger fish here and ideally I want to keep my bait as still as possible over the feed. My rig for this features a 2g float, which is enough to hold still in the flow, and I have just over a metre of line between the float and pole tip. This means that I can hold the bait static by placing the pole between my legs and resting it on a spray bar. More importantly, my hook bait is nailed over my bait. I don't use a line shorter than a metre because I don't want fish to feel too much resistance when they take my bait. If the line is too short, fish like perch will feel the pole tip as they take the bait and quickly drop it.

Medium Lines

Once I've caught the initial perch on this shorter swim by fishing with my bait nailed on the deck, a great tactic is to begin loose feeding casters over the top of this. Again, it's vital to think about how these act in the water: Because there's little flow here, if I feed these in front of me I believe they will spread out and fall just onto and below my groundbait feed. For this reason, my second rig has a longer 2m length of line and, as the diagram shows, aims to achieve a slow-falling hook bait in the bottom half of the water column. This length of line allows me to place the rig into the water in front of me and as it settles over the bait, I can slow it down slightly, occasionally holding back a little harder against the float and flow to waft the hook bait up. However, the 2m length of line means that I can explore the whole of my groundbaited area and just below this while remaining in control of the float without dragging the rig off line.

Longlining

Feeding on my longer-pole swim will be very different from that of the closer swim, and therefore this will affect the length of line I use between float and pole tip. I'm kicking off this swim by feeding a full pot of hempseed, sprinkled over a line of around a metre. In the fast flow, this will drift downstream, spreading out even further by the time it settles on the bottom. However, because fish are darting around and constantly moving in the flow, this initial bed of bait spread over a large area allows them to graze, nipping down to grab some bait, before swimming upstream a few feet and picking up some more. I can then regularly loose feed hemp over the top of this to maintain this bed of bait and draw in more fish by creating a column of feed falling through the water.

I have decided to use a very long length of line of over four metres between the float and pole tip for this swim. This is matched with a strung-out rig, giving my hook bait a slow fall, which will slowly drop through the water as it drifts down the swim, just like the loose feed. More importantly, though, the long line allows me to let the float and hook bait run right down the swim, without me moving the float or dragging it off the flow and feed line.

TOP TIP!

Always line up with a far-bank marker when using a short length of line between float and pole tip and when holding a rig static. This way, you can feed in line with this and present your rig in the same spot. You can be confident that you are fishing right over the baited area and maximise your chances of catching a big fish!

Big, wary roach like this often hang at the bottom of your peg. A long line is a great way to fool them.

EXPERT TIPS ON LONGLINING...



When making long rigs on top four, five or six sections of pole, count how many turns on a given winder that length is. This saves you getting your pole sections out when making rigs! For example, I know that on these small orange winders, my top four is 18 turns, my top five is 24, and my top six is 29.



Not everyone can afford lots of spare No4 and No5 sections to hook up their rigs on their spare pole sections while not in use. However, you don't need them! Simply wrap the bottom part of the rig back up on a winder and store it in the bottom of your top kit!



When holding a bait still on rivers for quality fish like perch, try painting the top of the body white with Tipp-Ex. This allows you to see the float under the water when a fish takes it. Often it will just submerge before popping back up as a fish just grabs the end of the worm. I like to wait to see this disappear properly before striking, resulting in properly hooked fish and fewer missed bites!



WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN LONGLINING...

When fishing with a long line in conjunction with loose feeding, you can expect bites in various parts of your swim, and these will change as a session progresses. At the start the fish are often right at the bottom of the swim, picking up the last few grains of hemp or loose feed that are settling. Without using a long line, you'd probably not catch these fish.

As the session progresses and the fish become increasingly confident, they seem to move up onto the main bed of bait, which is usually where the majority of the loose feed is landing on the bottom.

However, when the fish are really competing they will begin taking the bait off the bottom and come right to the top of the swim, sometimes just a metre below where the loose feed is landing. This in itself has taught me a lesson with regard to where I feed. The last thing you want is the fish moving too far in front of you, or even upstream, to the point at which you can't present your hook bait to them. This is why I always feed my initial bait – the pot of hemp at the start – well downstream at an angle of at least one o'clock. I will loose feed just very



Hemp, casters and groundbait. What right thinking redfin could resist?

slightly above this so that it should land on and around the same area.

The beauty about doing this is that you can always get your rig and hook bait settling into the zone where the fish are feeding. In conjunction with the long line, you can then find exactly where this is!

One final tip to bear in mind is that fish may also back off the feed as much as they will move up onto it. If bites dry up, or a predator moves into the swim, you will normally find that the fish move back down the swim right to the bottom of the feed. If I find this is happening a lot during a session, I will sometimes extend my line length up to six metres and pick off these bigger fish that are sat right at the bottom of the swim.

PROOF THAT IT WORKS!

This session has demonstrated what I wanted to get across perfectly. I fed the two swims as I planned to begin with, before starting short with the heavy rig and short line, nailing half a worm hook bait over the feed. The response was hectic for the first part of the session as a nest of perch between 4oz and 1lb settled right over the bed!

As expected, these didn't stay for the duration and I began to loose feed casters before changing to the lighter rig with a slightly longer line to explore the swim further. This worked well and I soon found myself catching a mixture of fish here – roach, dace and an odd chunky perch. The slightly longer line was vital because I found that bites came anywhere from right at the top of my groundbait to a metre below it, where the casters must have been landing!

The second part of the session is where the real longlining rigs came into play on the longer swim. To start with the fish were just below where I cupped in the initial feed, where I'd



Regular loose feeding helps draw fish up from downstream.

expect, all dumpy little roach that took the bait just as it settled. The long line made it easy for me to get the rig running through in a straight line to this area, and the fact that I missed very few bites reassured me that the hook bait was acting as naturally as possible.

One particular run through, however, the rig ran all the way through the swim without a bite and as I went to lift it out I hooked a much bigger 10oz redfin! The crafty specimen was sat right at the bottom of the swim and I commenced to present the rig further downstream so that the bait settled below the main feed area, which led to a run of these pristine fish to finish on. With close to 20lb of winter river fish in the sack, I called it a day. Hopefully this feature has helped you understand more about the effectiveness of different lengths of line between float and pole tip on rivers, and you can put it to good use on your next outing! ■

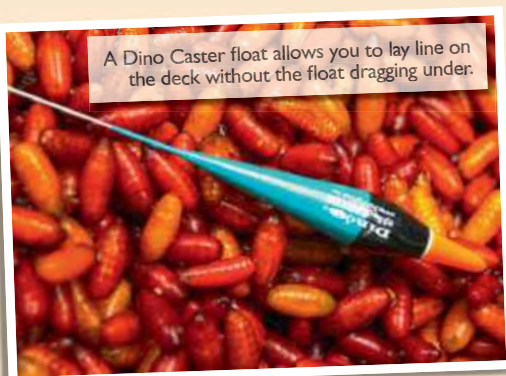


A cracking mixed net of Soar roach and perch, all thanks to a long-line approach.



PEWSEY REVISITED

Our resident barrel-shaped scribe takes us to the Kennet & Avon Canal, to reflect on a great fishery of the past and test out some floats for the future!



Certain venues hold great memories, and for me it's the Kennet & Avon Canal at Pewsey. Not only was it the first venue I fished an open match on (way back in 1983) it's also the place where I've won and framed in the most matches.

You see, back then it was one of the most popular canal venues in the southwest; I'm sure most anglers from the south who fished it the 1980s and 1990s would have fished the Pewsey waters at some time or another, and remember drawing areas like Milkhouse, the Crab Apple, the boats, Wilcot or, if they were really lucky, Lady's Bridge bay!

The annual Kennet & Avon teams-of-four event, which was hosted by the Pewsey, Marlborough and Devizes clubs, along with

the venues of Brimslade on the Marlborough waters and The Three Magpies stretch at Devizes, had up to 100 teams participating in its heyday and were all extremely well attended events.

Pewsey regularly held winter-league events as several leagues fished rounds there and it even hosted a couple of southern Winter League semi-finals. But nowadays, sadly for one reason or another you hardly see an open match or league fixture on the place, except for the Pewsey AA club events, which are still keenly contested.

So when my Hungarian friend, Pewsey AA club member and Dino Float distributor Attila Adam, gave me a call to suggest we should have a fish at Pewsey to test out some of his new canal fishing patterns, I couldn't

A big roach, on his favourite venue; is there any wonder Chavey is smiling?



say yes quick enough! I probably hadn't fished there for at least three seasons – far too long in my view.

Back in its heyday, when natural-water angling was thriving, the Pewsey club held matches that attracted anglers from all over the south, every event was over 100 pegs, and upstairs at the wharf where the draw was held, the draw queue was awash with southern angling talent.

Bob Nudd, Dickie Carr, Rich Borley and Glenn Brown, Pete Vasey, Derek Young and Mark Pollard have competed here, and at some point or another I have gone to watch them all.

The quality of these fields was superb, possibly due in some way by the club allowing bloodworm to be fished on its waters. Canal anglers from as far away as London, and beyond, used to turn up with folded newspaper packages and often drive back to 'The Smoke' with fatter wallets than they arrived with!

And as a young angler I was in awe of these guys. Bob Nudd, Dickie Carr, Rich Borley and Glenn Brown, Pete Vasey, Derek Young and Mark Pollard have all competed here, and at some point or another I have drawn or fished poorly so given up and gone to watch them.

So with anticipation and great memories I loaded my car and drove the 45 minutes from my home to this 12m-wide slice of angling heritage to meet up with Attila, get my hands on some of his brightly coloured balsa and bristle wares, and hopefully

rekindle my love affair with the venue.

Just before the day in question we had had an unseasonably dry period but, typically, overnight and on the way to the venue the heavens opened up and we had the type of rain that prompted pairs of animals to wander uphill towards a bearded fellow constructing a huge wooden boat!

In its prime Pewsey had over 200 permanent pegs, but like many a canal

nowadays any areas with road access have been filled up with moored boats. We had arranged to meet at Wilcot Road, a section which used to hold about 30 pegs, but due to the moored boats we could only find a couple of pegs with enough room to fish!

Wilcot was always a recognised breadpunch area, with a backup of a squatt line as well as chopped worm and caster for the odd better fish, so these were the baits I had brought along with me. Attila had similar baits, but had also mentioned that he had some Slovakian bloodworm and joker, which did look very nice!

I had prepared some liquidised bread for the punch lines and knocked up a bit of groundbait for cupping in on a line in about two feet six inches of water to fish the squatt at about 10 metres. Attila also was mixing some groundbait, but again his



These slim, but incredibly stable Dino Floats are Attila Adam's choice for narrow canals.



"Shh, don't tell Chavey I've got some bloodworm!"



A light, sweet mix for the cut!



Big canal roach are partial to finely minced worms.



A Dino Squatt pattern is ideal for fishing on the drop.



Being retired, Chavey has loads of time to tie up hook links!

was different from the norm because it was from a Hungarian manufacturer I had never heard of, but it was apparently brilliant for roach. Hopefully the English roach wouldn't appreciate this European grub, or I was going to get a right turning over!

So, bait prepared it was down to the task of the day of testing out some of Dino's new canal patterns. In fairness, I had already used the Squatt pattern in the bigger 0.6g to 1g sizes on the Gloucester Canal in the lead-up to the National and on the matches I had fished on the Thames in September, but I was keen to try them in the smallest sizes, so I had rigs tied up with the smallest 0.1g and 0.2g. The punch line in the deep water at five metres was fished with a Dino Belge in 0.3g and the chopped-worm line had my all-time favourite pattern for that style of fishing – a Chi-Chi in 0.4g. My final rig was a new pole stick in 0.15g.

Attila also had a Belge for the punch, a 0.3g Drallion for the bloodworm and pinkie and a new dome-topped Perchie for fishing the worm. So with bait and rigs ready, and three years after I had last wet a line there, I was finally fishing my favourite bit of canal.

Unfortunately, the overnight weather that had kept Noah in a job had put paid to a bagging session, and any thoughts of a bread bonanza were quickly forgotten as I only had two extremely small roach in my first spell using it; certainly not the stamp of fish I had hoped for. Attila suffered a similar fate on the punch and we were both

soon moving out to our groundbaited lines at 10 metres. Thankfully the fish were more accommodating and before long my slender 0.1g blue and black Squatt float was sliding away and fish were being swung to hand (and more than a few were being netted as well!).

Both of our chopped-worm lines produced, mine at about six metres staggered down the peg was soon feeding my keepnet with chunky perch up to 6oz and Attila's, which he fished at the bottom of the far shelf,

was producing the same. All too soon Attila started to catch on bloodworm over his joker feed on his 0.3g bulked Drallion float, which was an extremely positive and efficient way of fishing.

I was soon picking up the odd better roach, the highlight being two over the 8oz mark making an appearance.

Before too long it was time to pack up as Tom Scholey rocked up to take the pictures, and with the light fading we adjourned to the pub to talk about the day. It was quite surreal sitting in a bar that just used to be a function room and draw venue for all those matches in the past. Thousands of anglers would have walked up the same steps over the years hoping to pull out a flier and catch a netful of skimmers, roach or even tench, which the venue was once famed for.

Today we didn't quite catch what we'd hoped for, but as with any midweek angling session it was a pleasure just to be there and put fish in the net, even despite the torrential rain earlier in the day! I for one won't leave it three years again before I'm back because, thankfully, the Pewsey club has listed a series of open matches throughout the season, including a teams-of-four series in January and February next year. Details of these matches have been posted on the K&AAngler Facebook page, as are the results of the Pewsey club and open matches.

Oh, I forgot to mention: You can keep the Hungarian groundbait, Attila, but the Dino floats, now they are a bit special! ■



The fruits of a few hours on one of Chavey's favourite venues!

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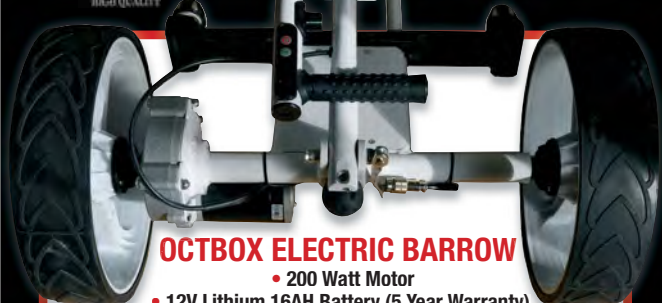
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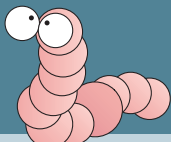
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DYNAMITE

Here are some real blasts from the past because Dynamite has relaunched some legendary products that have been missed out of the range for some time.

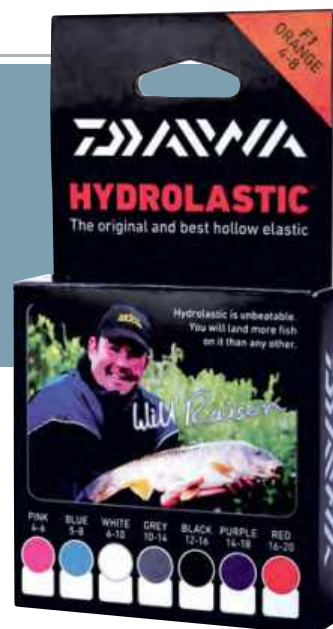
One that you can expect to see back on the shelves in 2016 is the Fish Gutz additive – renowned for being one of the smelliest, potent, fish-attracting flavours of all time. Designed for all coarse fish, this fishy-smelling liquid can be used to enhance all feed and hook baits.

Also back in the range are the Meaty Fish Bites meat hook baits that come in a flavourful oil-oozing liquid. Two sizes are available – standard and mini.



PRESTON INNOVATIONS

Pick of the pack for this company has to be the new Competition Pro Rollers. These are available in three sizes. The smallest is ideal for compact canal work, while the biggest is perfect for steep banks when you need a high roller. The short, stumpy vertical rollers are extra sturdy, while new rotary designs make the rollers smooth and very pole friendly! If you're fishing on a flat bank, or need to place the rollers on a wall or hedge, they lay perfectly flat too – perfect rollers that cover all pole fishing situations!

**DAIWA**

Hydrolastic is a legendary product from Daiwa, and this year another grade has entered the range in the shape of orange Hydro, rated at a 4-8. Fitting between the already popular yellow and pink grades, this soft elastic is ideal for FIs or stockie carp work, when you're looking for an elastic to allow the fish to leave the swim with little disturbance. Of course, in conjunction with an Interlastic Puller Kit, the strength of this elastic makes it possible to land particularly big fish, with the high stretch making it incredibly difficult to get broken – even when fishing light!

**MATRIX**

Shortly after looking at the new Nemesis 1000 pole at October's T&G Trade Show, we received a parcel through the post containing the Carp Bagger XT margin pole. This 9m pole is designed with heavy hauling in mind and will handle the most brutal gear in intense snag situations!

**SENSAS**

A brand-new range of hooks under the Crazy Bait banner is hitting the market. There are six patterns, four spade end and two eyed for hair rigging. They've been designed to cover all commercial needs, from F1 and silver-fish work to margin carp hauling.

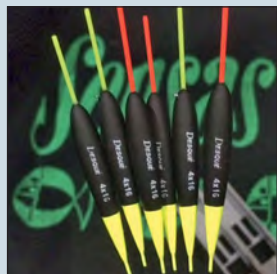
Also in the hook department are some new patterns under the Feeder-Tech brand. Although designed for rod-and-line work,

these are perfect for bream, skimmers and other big fish on natural venues!

After the success of the 670 Seatbox last year, a jumbo version has been introduced with 36mm legs and a full range of accessories that fit it.

Sensas has always been renowned as an excellent float maker and the new Titou bleak range is sure to be popular among

bleak and small-fish anglers. Perfect for both whip and pole work. Other bodied and pencil patterns have also been released. Employing an interesting family concept, Sensas is producing particular-shaped floats, with various bristle thicknesses and materials. For example, the round-body floats here come with fibreglass, plastic and thick hollow plastic for different baits and uses!





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- 3 x MINI EXTENSIONS
- MONSTER RESPONSE POLE HOLDALL
- KUPPING KIT AND KUPS

M70 16M POLE

- 1 x MATCH TOP 3 KIT (3.95M)
- 2 x MATCH TOP 2 KIT (2.4M)
- 4 x ROLLER PULLA POWER TOP 2 KIT (2.4M)
- 3 x MINI EXTENSIONS
- MONSTER RESPONSE POLE HOLDALL
- KUPPING KIT AND KUPS

M90 16M POLE

- 3 x MATCH TOP 3 KIT (3.95M)
- 2 x MATCH TOP 2 KIT (2.4M)
- 6 x ROLLER PULLA POWER TOP 2 KIT (2.4M)
- 3 x MINI EXTENSIONS
- MONSTER RESPONSE POLE HOLDALL
- KUPPING KIT AND KUPS

BI-BAIT BAGGING!

In the first of a new series, Tom Scholey catches up with **Jon Whincup** on the banks of his local Decoy Lakes, to find out why he thinks two baits are all you need for a brilliant winter session!

Even venues as prolific as the lovely Decoy Lakes, where you join me today, can be tricky to tackle come wintertime. Pegs that in summer would be almost guaranteed to catch 100lb or more can struggle for a bite, but I actually find this more challenging fishing – a lot more enjoyable than a winter bagging race!

The biggest weapon you can have in your armoury in winter is definitely confidence. You have to believe in what you are doing and be confident that it is going to work, because patience is often the key to getting the most from your peg. You need to settle into a feeding regime that you believe to be right, and stick to it; with the size of the fish in places like Decoy, when they turn up it doesn't take long to put a serious weight together.

Pole fishing on big, open-water lakes like Beastie, where you join me today, is somewhat easier to plan than, say, tackling snake lakes in winter. This may sound a strange thing to say, but what I mean is the fish that don't want to feed can get away from you. On snake lakes, for example, you often find that tactics like dobbing come to the fore, which is essentially trying to catch fish midwater that don't want to feed.

Fish that don't want to feed here at Decoy will more than likely be sat further out, beyond pole range or near the central island – basically as far away from any bankside disturbance as possible. So your brief as a pole angler is to try and draw feeding fish in and then catch them – something far more positive and up my street than dobbing a piece of bread against a feature in blind hope!

CATCH EVERYTHING

With this idea in mind I think it is first important to consider what species of fish we expect to be feeding. Roach, skimmers and FIs will all happily feed in the cold, but carp can be conspicuous by their absence. It is also worth saying that the colder the water, the fewer fish you

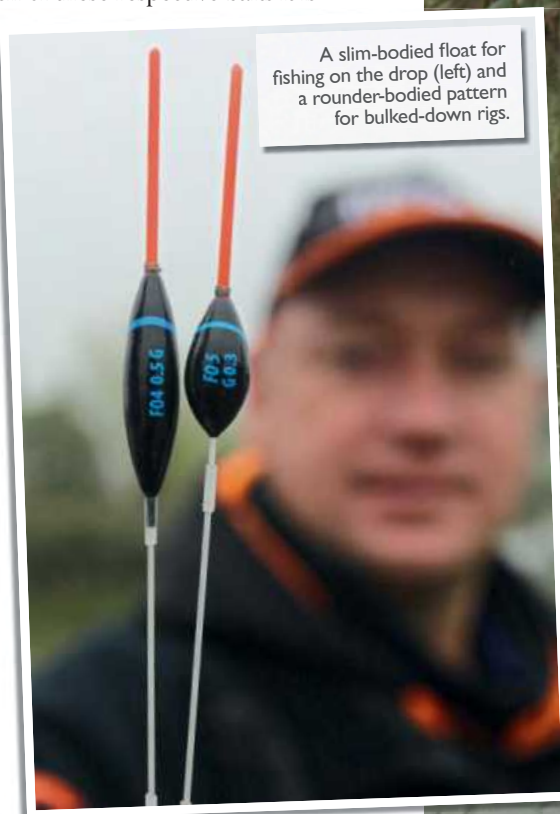
can expect to feed, and the later in the day you can expect to catch them.

I generally look at feeding a short pole swim by hand, and a long pole line more negatively – which gives me two areas of my peg to catch from. It also means that I can experiment by feeding my peg in two different ways, which gives me a good idea of how the venue is responding, and if necessary I can adapt my plan accordingly.

In the vast majority of pegs, I attack my swim by fishing pellets on the long pole, and maggots short. Indeed, these two baits are all I take to my peg in the vast majority of situations in the winter. Before I talk you through how I feed and fish with each of these respective baits it is important to think how they work together.

What I mean by that is that feeding and fishing with maggots is quite an aggressive method. Bait is constantly falling through the water, roach are darting in and out and, depending on where and how the fish are feeding, a volume of bait will be spread over an area on the bottom.

By contrast, on the long pole I will pot in a small amount of pellets, then sit with a bait over the top in a very small »»





ANGLER FILE

JON WHINCUP

Age: 49

Lives: Peterborough

Sponsor: Frenzee, Bait-Tech

Pole: Frenzee FXT Precision

VENUE FILE

DECOY LAKES

Location: Drybread Road, Whittlesey,
Peterborough PE7 2AD

Day tickets: £7; concessions £4

Website: www.decoylakes.co.uk

area, almost like setting a trap. If the fish are feeding more warily, I would expect this line to be the most productive. I also expect this to work the best in the early part of the day, while fish gain confidence over my more aggressively fed swim.

MAGGOT MEAL

Both the best and the worst thing about fishing with maggots is that they appeal to all sizes of fish. From a tiny roach to a giant carp, everything will wolf down a well-presented maggot. So the key is you have to adapt your feeding to try and catch the biggest fish that are in front of you.

There are two ways you can do this: the first is through your rigs, and the other is through your feeding. Feedingwise, I always like to start by throwing in 20 maggots every two or three minutes, and just read my way into the session from there.

Rigwise I set up two patterns: firstly a 0.2g Frenzee F04 tied to 0.14mm line and shotted with a string of No11 shot, starting at the base of the hooklength and working up from there. Hook choice is a size 18 Drennan Wide Gape Maggot, to a 6in 0.09mm hooklength.

My second rig is far more positive – a 0.4g float with a bulk of No8s 14 inches away from the hook, and three No9 droppers.



Keep bait simple, but think extra carefully about how you feed.



Loose-feed and potting-in pellets both have their days – be prepared to try both methods.

After feeding the swim regularly, I almost always start on the strung-out rig. This allows me to really search the water column and find out at what depth the fish are feeding, and more importantly what fish are in my peg.

An important thing to remember with regard to this is that different species of

fish can hang at different depths, so it might well be that you have FIs feeding on the deck, and roach or skimmers swimming above them, or vice versa.

The bulk-down rig only comes into play when and if I establish that the stamp of fish that I want to catch are feeding hard on the bottom, and I know that getting my bait down there quickly will get me a bite, and ultimately a fish in the net, quicker.

PELLET PERFECTION

For pellets, a positive rig is also the order of the day as the intention is to get the bait down and nail it dead accurately over the neat pile of pellets that I have fed via the pole pot.

Again, I use a 0.4g Frenzee F04 tied to 0.14mm Frenzee Precision, though this time my hook is a size 16 Drennan Silverfish Pellet.

The size of pellets that I choose to feed depends entirely on the temperature. If it is relatively mild I like to feed softened 4mm pellets. I tap just six or eight in, then present a 4mm expander pellet over the top. If I expect the fishing to be tough, though, I will generally feed micro pellets instead. I always like to carry both kinds of pellets with me, which gives me the option of changing my feed bait if I get things slightly wrong at the start of the session. Likewise, I also like to take 4mm and 6mm expander pellets, as 4mm pellets are best

Different species of fish can hang at different depths, so it might well be that you have FIs feeding on the deck, and roach or skimmers swimming above them...



Jon uses fine 0.09mm hooklengths for FIs, but with balanced tackle and soft hollow elastic he never gets broken!

when the going is tough, and 6mm if a few more fish are moving and feeding.

THE SESSION

Getting the most from your winter session is all about reading how the fish are feeding, and adapting your approach accordingly. After tapping a few soft pellets in on the long line and fishing a 4mm expander pellet over the top, I soon find that I am into a run of small skimmers – not the target species, but at least I know some fish are feeding. Five small stamp fish like this have me thinking that I need to change my feeding regime to bring in some better carp and F1s.

I start loose feeding some bigger 4mm pellets, and this has the desired effect with the odd better F1 putting in an appearance, and a lone 6lb carp. That said, the small skimmers are still a nuisance, and I really feel that my maggot line will be more productive today as I am feeding more aggressively here, so I expect that the fish will come in and settle, as they are obviously responding to bait.

After an hour on the long pole, I drop in short and my suspicions are confirmed with a near 4lb F1 on my first put-in! Some nice stamp roach follow, and a pattern soon emerges. I seem to catch a few roach, then

Building-up a loose-fed maggot swim for the later stages of the session is a great play in winter.



bites go quiet, before I latch into a quality F1.

Another notable pattern is that bites only come when my rig has settled, which prompts me to switch to my bulked-down rig. Now I can really motor, it is quite literally a good-stamp roach, F1 or crucian every put-in.

One word of caution, though: when you start bagging up like this be sure not to get too giddy with the loose feed. It is very easy to get a bit gung ho, which can bring the

fish off the bottom if you are not careful.

I finish the session with well over 80lb, comprising of about 50lb of F1s, two carp for 10lb and 20lb of mixed silver fish, including some cracking roach and big crucians. Today the fish have fed well, but if they hadn't and the going was tough I know I would have had my options covered with my longer swim, and a negative approach would have guaranteed a few bites on a tough day. ■

You often catch a big F1 on your first drop-in on a new swim!



You can enjoy a day catching silvers, F1s and carp with Jon's approach!



Stuff

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INSIDE THE WORLD OF POLE FISHING IN ASSOCIATION WITH **MATCHTACKLE.COM**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

All dates have now been confirmed for Pole Fishing magazine's events in 2016. The popular Pole Fishing With The Stars coaching event is back, taking in two venues this year, with one day at Lindholme Lakes near Doncaster on April 30th and one day at Tunnel Barn Farm near Warwick on May 14th.

Pole Fishing has this year teamed up with sister title Match Fishing to run this event and with star anglers to include Des Shipp, Andy May, Callum Dicks, Andy Bennett, Lee Kerry and Nick Speed, the two events are set to prove more popular than ever.

The Pole Fishing Masters, which last year proved a massively popular three-day event is scheduled to take place on June 13th, 14th and 15th, and our Subscriber Classic, which will also run at Tunnel Barn Farm, will run on September 9th.

Also taking place in 2016 is an exciting new event aimed exclusively at over 55s. The Match & Pole Fishing Veterans Championship will see four qualifiers spanning the length and breadth of the country, with 15 lucky qualifiers from each making their way through to a prestigious final, which is set to take place at Packington Somers Fishery next September.

For entry to all the events, log on to www.shopatdhp.com, and click on the Events tab, or for the full listing of forthcoming Pole Fishing events, see the panel opposite.

Pole Fishing With The Stars is set to take in two separate dates and venues this year.



MATCH & POLE FISHING WITH THE STARS
Lindholme Lakes – April 30th
Tunnel Barn Farm – May 14th

DAIWA POLE FISHING MASTERS:
June 13th, 14th, 15th

SUBSCRIBER CLASSIC
Tunnel Barn Farm – September 9th

VETERANS CHAMPIONSHIP
Partridge Lakes – April 29th
Aston Park Fishery – May 27th

Tunnel Barn Farm – June 24th
Gold Valley Lakes – July 22nd
Final: Packington Somers – August 12th

MATCHTACKLE.COM
ONLINE ACCESSORIES FOR THE COMPETITION ANGLER

ROUGH SMASHES MONKHALL!

Drennan Northwest ace Mike Rough has won the second of this year's Pole Fishing festivals at Monkhall Fishery near Bridgnorth.

After winning his section on the first day, Mike went on to win the match on Day Two with a massive 107lb of F1s from Swallow Pool.

Second overall was another talented youngster, Garbolino Ossett ace Ben Taylor. Ben – who also had two section wins – missed out on weight countback by 27lb. The gap between second and third place was even tighter, with Ben edging out local rod Chris Cadwallader by just 13oz. Just missing out on third place on weight difference, and also with two points was Scott Doodson.

Watch this space for details of the next Pole Fishing event at Monkhall Fishery early next year!



CANAL PAIRS CHAMPIONS CROWNED

Kevin Clarke (centre) and Dave Edgerley (left) from Sam's Tackle in Wigan have been crowned Britain's Best Canal Anglers at the recent National Canal Pairs Championship held along the Birmingham & Fazeley Canal in Minworth.

The final, which was organised by the Canal & River Trust and the Angling Trust was hosted by Dams & Locks AC and saw 51 pairs of the country's top anglers compete for the title.

Tom Clark from West Sussex caught an impressive 1.2kg and took the title of Britain's Best Junior Canal Angler.

John Ellis, national fisheries and angling manager for the Canal & River Trust, said: "This year's competition has reeled in bumper catches and shown how packed with fish the canals are."

"Angling is a great sport to get into because it's open to people of all ages and abilities and, because most people live within five miles of their local waterway, accessible to millions."

David Kent, from the Angling Trust, said: "Saturday's final saw some of the country's best canal anglers battling to win this inaugural championship."

"It was a successful first year in many ways, clearly demonstrating just how passionate many anglers are about their canal fishing and also how well the collaboration between the Canal & River Trust and Angling Trust is progressing."

"We knew there was a gap in the big match calendar for both a top-flight canal-based event and a pairs event. This championship seems to have filled that gap perfectly. Long may it continue!"

The 2016 event will feature additional qualifying heats in Wales, Scotland, Northern and Southern Ireland.

BEWARE OF MEXICAN CLAMS!

The Angling Trust is appealing to all anglers and other water users to be extra vigilant following the discovery of an invasive species never before seen in Britain.

The Gulf wedge clam (*Rangea cuneate*) is a native of the Gulf of Mexico but has been found in large numbers in the South Forty-Foot Drain, which leads into the River Witham in Boston, Lincolnshire.

Dr Martin Willing, who is the conservation officer for the Conchological Society, made the worrying discovery while monitoring a rare mussel in the River Witham for conservation charity Buglife and Natural England. Dr Willing's findings are

reported in the latest issue of the Journal of Conchology.

Mark Owen, Angling Trust's head of freshwater, said: "It is very worrying that another invasive non-native species has been discovered in this country. While the scientists work out exactly what the risk is to native fish species, we are urging all anglers to be vigilant and carry out the 'Check Clean Dry' procedures, details of which can be found on our website, www.anglingtrust.net."

The procedures urge water users to thoroughly check, clean and dry equipment and clothing to help stop the spread of invasive non-native plants and animals.

TACKLE AWARDS TROUBLE

Due to an editorial error, Pole Fishing's tackle awards is set to run for another month – with voting not now closing until December 31st.

All website votes are correct, and will count, but any voters who have cast postal votes will be contacted and offered the chance to vote for one of the products that was missed off the original voting form. For your chance to have your say, fill out the form on page 55.

COMPETITION WINNER

The winner of the Maver Definition Carp pole was

John Hobson from Middlesbrough

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Matt's Month

Fooling the cutest FIs, discovering a deadly hemp tactic, and catching fish where he'd least expect are just some of the crazy things that our tango-topped typist has discovered this month!

TEARS OF JOY!

I had tears in my eyes when my best friend, Tom Scholey, tipped his fish onto the scales in last month's Drennan Knockout Cup Final! I've known Tom for nearly 10 years now, and to be sat behind him and watch him win what I believe is one of the most prestigious and challenging events in fishing was an absolute honour!

To get into the two-day final is a huge achievement in itself – you have to compete against the best anglers in the country (and arguably the world for that matter!) on a variety of venues, which requires a very diverse skill set for commercials, canals, rivers and lakes.

The final took place at one of my favourite venues – Docklow Pools in Herefordshire. Keen to succeed, Tom

planned in several practice sessions where he asked me to join him, and also asked if I'd sit with him as a bank runner during the matches.

I can honestly say that I've never been as nervous as I was on the second day of the final, when it was neck and neck between Matt Derry and Tom. With every fish he hooked my heart was in my mouth, while Tom sitting on the box was as cool as a cucumber! Watching a high-pressure close match unfold was absolutely gripping, and despite watching the match throughout I didn't know what the outcome was! Matt Derry netted a big FI after the whistle, while Tom had been switching between his silver-fish swim and FI lines.

The moment I realised he'd done enough was when he lifted his second net out of the water, and as Joe Carass read out the weight the crowd of spectators gave a big cheer and round of applause. I could see Tom was overwhelmed – he didn't know where to look! He often plays down his fishing ability in his editorials, but he can't hide from it now!

Despite reminding me that I've never won £5,000 in a fishing match, he's been as humble as ever in victory. Tom puts an incredible amount of effort into his fishing and certainly doesn't follow the crowds. This was an absolutely fantastic achievement and I'm sure the first of many victories and fully deserved – well done mucker!

I had my heart in my mouth as Tom played this munter!



The new Match Fishing Drennan Knockout Cup Champion – hard earned and well deserved!

FIs...BUT NOT As YOU KNOW THEM!

I often take the mickey out of Tom for doing things different from the crowd, but while practising with him for the Drennan KO Cup I learnt some very interesting tricks! The Match Lake at Docklow Pools is full of big FIs – some of them have great big humped backs, huge golden scales and are in excess of 4lb! However, they're also incredibly wise fish that are very difficult to catch.

Of course, the stereotypical way to fish for these shy-biting specimens is to use delicate rigs, with shot close to the hook to see the tiny bites. At the start of a session at Docklow, you would quickly catch two or three fish on a 'standard' F1 rig, before bites diminished. However, Tom worked out that you could catch these wary fish by using a particular rig, and feeding in a certain way.

In the depth of three and a half feet, he used a tiny 4x10 Mick Wilkinson Slim float, which was shotted with a bulk just above a 12in hooklength. Yes, you read that right – 12 inches!

This incredibly slow-falling bait in the last foot of water was deadly for fooling these wary fish – and because the bait was acting so naturally, they took it very confidently. Interestingly, Tom fed in a way that helped this rig work – pinging just two or three pellets at a time to tempt fish into the swim, before potting in three or four pellets to focus the fish right where his hook bait was. Despite being a fairly unconventional way of catching these finicky fish, it worked a treat, and I will certainly be trying it more in the future!



Docklow Pools' FIs are all chunky and very clever fish that are in mint condition!



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THE FISH MAGICIAN!

Sometimes, I'm really thankful that certain anglers are in my team – in particular this month it has been Dave Brookes Jr. The thing that you need to know about Dave is that he never ever catches anything. What happens is that the fish magically dissolve into his keepnet, and he just weighs them in at the end of the match. That must be what happens, because on a recent canal match he had struggled to just scrape double figures. Well, that's what he said after the whistle. He then proceeded to weigh in 19lb-odd of great big roach, perch and specimen rudd and obliterate the match!

Just the previous week he didn't even have double figures and magically tipped nearly 14lb on the scales to win the match

too. Oh, and the week after that his 'less than last week' bag somehow grew to 17lb in his net. The man is simply incredible – keep your eyes peeled for a feature with him very soon!

(Ed – On the subject of admitting to very little and weighing in a lot, I'm not sure you can say too much Mr Godfrey? I once saw you admit to 30lb, and go on to win the match with 120lb!)



HEMP NIGHTMARES!

I get loads of bites on hemp, but never seem to catch any fish on it! On the Stainforth & Keadby Canal the other week, I plumbed up a hemp line out of the way, and primed it for two hours, feeding a dozen grains every few minutes.

Dropping in on the swim, my float sailed away instantly, with a 10oz roach – easy eh? I then missed a bite, and my piece of hemp came off the hook. I rebaited, shipped back out and this time I hooked a fish which juddered its head and came off! I then caught another, before missing three more bites, bumping a fish, and then while swinging the next in the lightly hooked fish dropped off, spangling my rig!

This is the kind of nightmare I have when fishing hemp – I feel like I have a swim full of great big feeding roach, but I can't catch them! I did, however, then make the best mistake I've made in a long time – I dropped my catapult into the canal. Because I was getting so many bites, I shipped back out and, without feeding at all, my rig settled and I hooked a big roach. Again, I was back out catapult-less, and shipped straight back again with a fish.

I proceeded to catch 18 roach on the bounce until the all-out whistle was called, while my catapult lay on the bottom of the canal at my feet. It suddenly dawned on me exactly why I was having a meltdown previously. I was feeding too much and too often!

The following two weeks I managed weights of 16lb 5oz and 15lb 10oz – most of which was on my dreaded hempseed!

When feeding too regularly, the fish were whizzing around off the bottom to take all the free offerings, and had little confidence to take my hook bait. However, feeding less often, but with more bait to keep the fish down, totally transformed the swim!

THE MAGIC LINE...



What is the strangest thing you've ever had happen to you in fishing? I had one of the strangest days I've ever had on the first round of our Preston Innovations Pole Fishing Pairs at Packington Somers Fishery. The fishing was particularly difficult for everyone around my end of the lake, with most anglers catching a few skimmers and a couple of F1s.

I had, however, been priming a margin swim with some loose-fed maggots for three and a half hours, and when I saw Michael Buchwalder drop in down the edge and nail a big F1 first drop, I had to have a go! Laying the tiny rig on, my elastic was dragged out first drop-in – bag-up time! However, I couldn't get another bite!

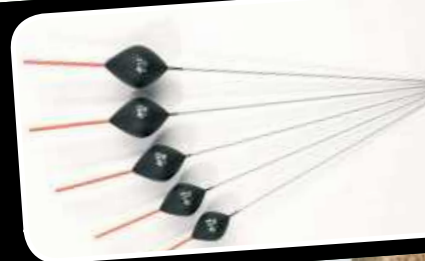
Meanwhile, several other anglers had started catching in the margins. I had a huge reed-lined bay, loads of room and cover, but I simply couldn't catch. With just 45 minutes to go, I had to try something. The margin to my right didn't look half as inviting; in fact, I could only see a couple of metres down there. Being my only option, I plumbed up there on just my top kit, potted in some maggots and dropped my rig over the top. Seconds later, I was playing an F1. Only minutes later another followed. And another! This new swim resulted in 14 fish in the last 40 minutes, which left me astounded and helped me to win the section!

Had those fish been there all day? Or was it the fact that I fed a new untouched area of the swim so late that I caught?

BENWICK SPORTS

TOP-SELLING FLOAT!

This month's best-selling pattern at this float megastore is the DH12 pole float (pictured). Order them now for delivery by calling 01353 721009 or visit the website www.benwick-sports.co.uk.



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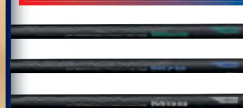
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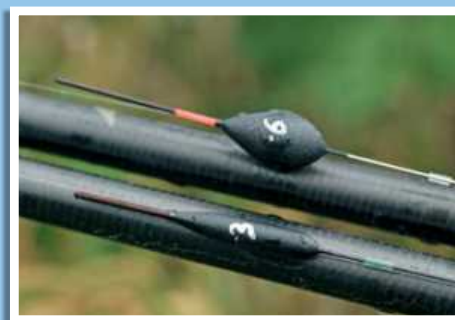
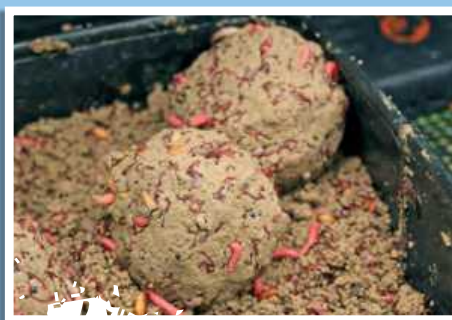
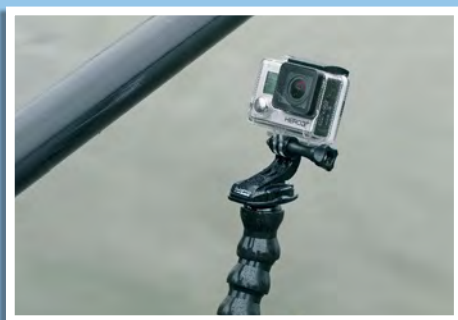
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Z14-1 *your choice of type and size	Superpro	18.6	3x□ + 1x○	*14	✓	✓	2	2	✓	3.899
	Z14-1 Superpro includes a fully compatible Xtreme Margin pole set!									
	Professional	18.6	3x□ + 1x○	*12	✓	✓	2	2	✓	3.699
	Standard	16.8	3x□	*10	✓	✓	1	1	✓	3.099
Simply the best! The strongest, longest and most advanced top-end pole available. For the serious competition angler.										
Z12 *your choice of type and size	Professional	18.6	3	*10	✓	✓	2	2	✓	3.099
	Standard	16.8	3	*8	✓	✓	1	1	✓	2.799
	Pole Only	16.8	3	—	—	✓	—	—	✓	1.999
"MOST INNOVATIVE PRODUCT" Pole Fishing "BEST FLAGSHIP POLE" Angling Times The pole that set new standards for design & performance. Light, stiff & strong – already a classic.										
Z10 *your choice of type and size	Professional	16.8	3	*8	✓	✓	2	2	✓	2.399
	Standard	15	3	*8	✓	✓	1	1	✓	2.099
	Pole Only	16.8	3	—	—	✓	—	—	✓	1.699
Full Z12 features and technology but just a little stronger – for those who like or need it that way.										
Z8 *your choice of type and size	Professional	16	3	*9	✓	✓	2	1	✓	1.799
	Standard	14.5	3	*7	✓	✓	1	1	✓	1.499
	Pole Only	16	3	—	—	✓	—	—	✓	1.399
"BEST MID-RANGE POLE" Pole Fishing Has built a deserved reputation for performance and quality. A strong yet light "do anything" pole that you can depend on.										
2ex-S 60 #1 NEW 2016	Professional	16	1x□	5	✓	✓	1	—	✓	1.199
	Standard	14.5	1x□	5	✓	✓	1	—	✓	1.099
True top-end performance & features at a mid-range price. Includes our revolutionary square protector for easy fishing.										
2ex-S 50 #1 NEW 2016	Professional	16	1x□	5	✓	✓	1	—	✓	999
	Standard	14.5	1x□	5	✓	✓	1	—	✓	899
Quality & performance never offered before at this price point. Includes our revolutionary square protector for easy fishing.										
2ex-S 40 #1 NEW 2016	Professional	14.5	1x□	4	✓	✓	1	—	✓	799
	Standard	13	1x□	4	✓	✓	1	—	✓	699
The perfect "all-rounder". Strong, light & packed with advanced features. Includes our revolutionary square protector for easy fishing.										
2ex-S 30 #1 NEW 2016	Professional	14.5	1x□	3	✓	✓	1	—	✓	699
	Standard	13	1x□	3	✓	✓	1	—	—	599
Very strong, very reliable & made alongside our most expensive poles. Includes our revolutionary square protector for easy fishing.										
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SILVERLITE SL 10-12	Standard	16	2	7	✓	✓	1	—	✓	2.799
A light, ultrastiff and "fast" pole purpose designed for catching "silverfish", including the quality fish now common in commercial fisheries.										
SILVERLITE SL 10-08 NEW 2016	Standard	*14.5	2	5	✓	✓	1	—	✓	1.699
*Extensions to 16m available. All the same features & very similar performance to the range topping 10-12 but at lower cost to suit more budgets.										
SILVERLITE SL 10-06 NEW 2016	Standard	13	1	5	✓	✓	1	—	✓	1.199
*Extensions to 14.5/16m available. Entry point to the Silverlite range. Lighter & stiffer than comparable "power" poles but still strong enough to handle good quality fish.										



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